Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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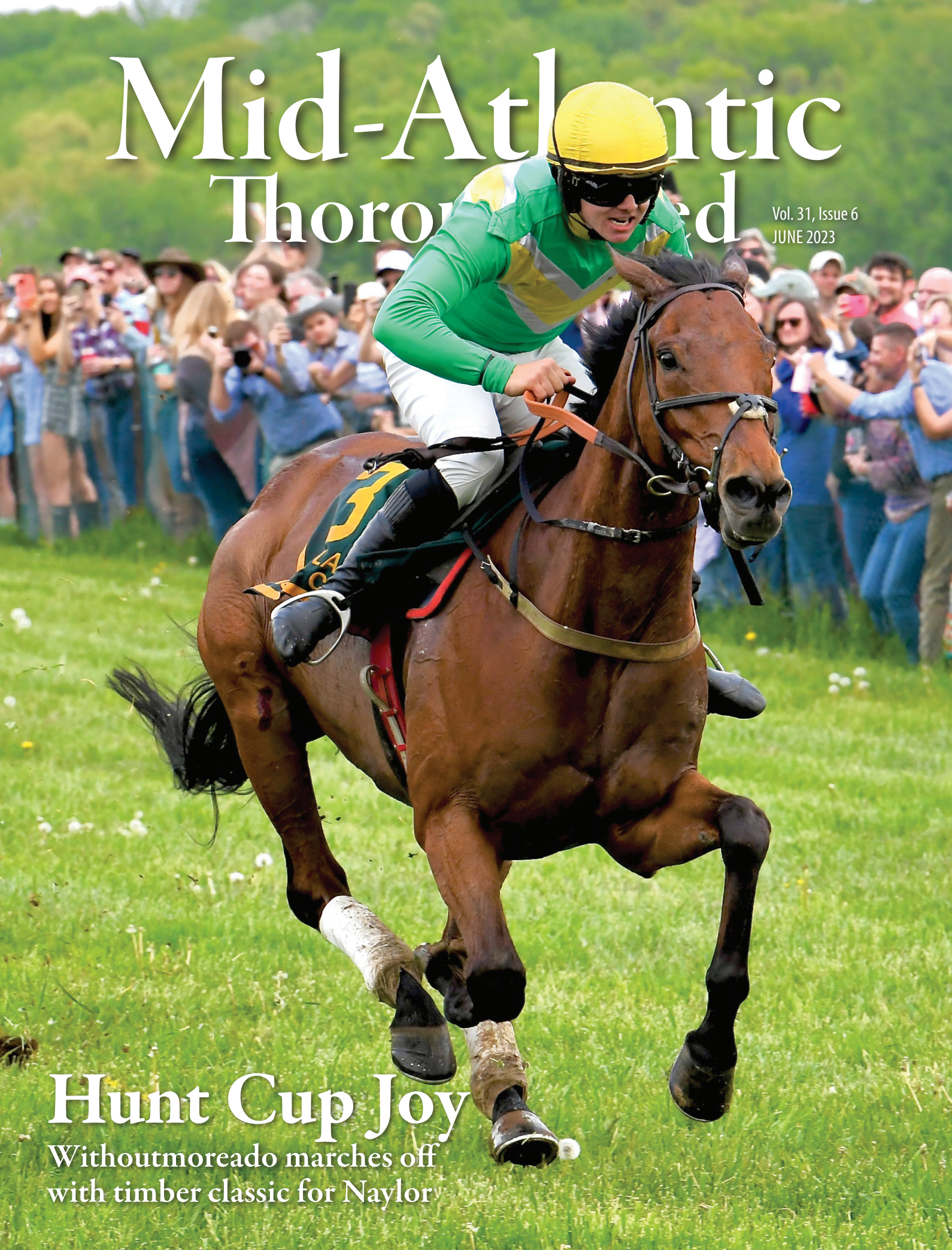
JUNE 2023



Hunt Cup Joy

Withoutmoreado marches off with timber classic for Naylor

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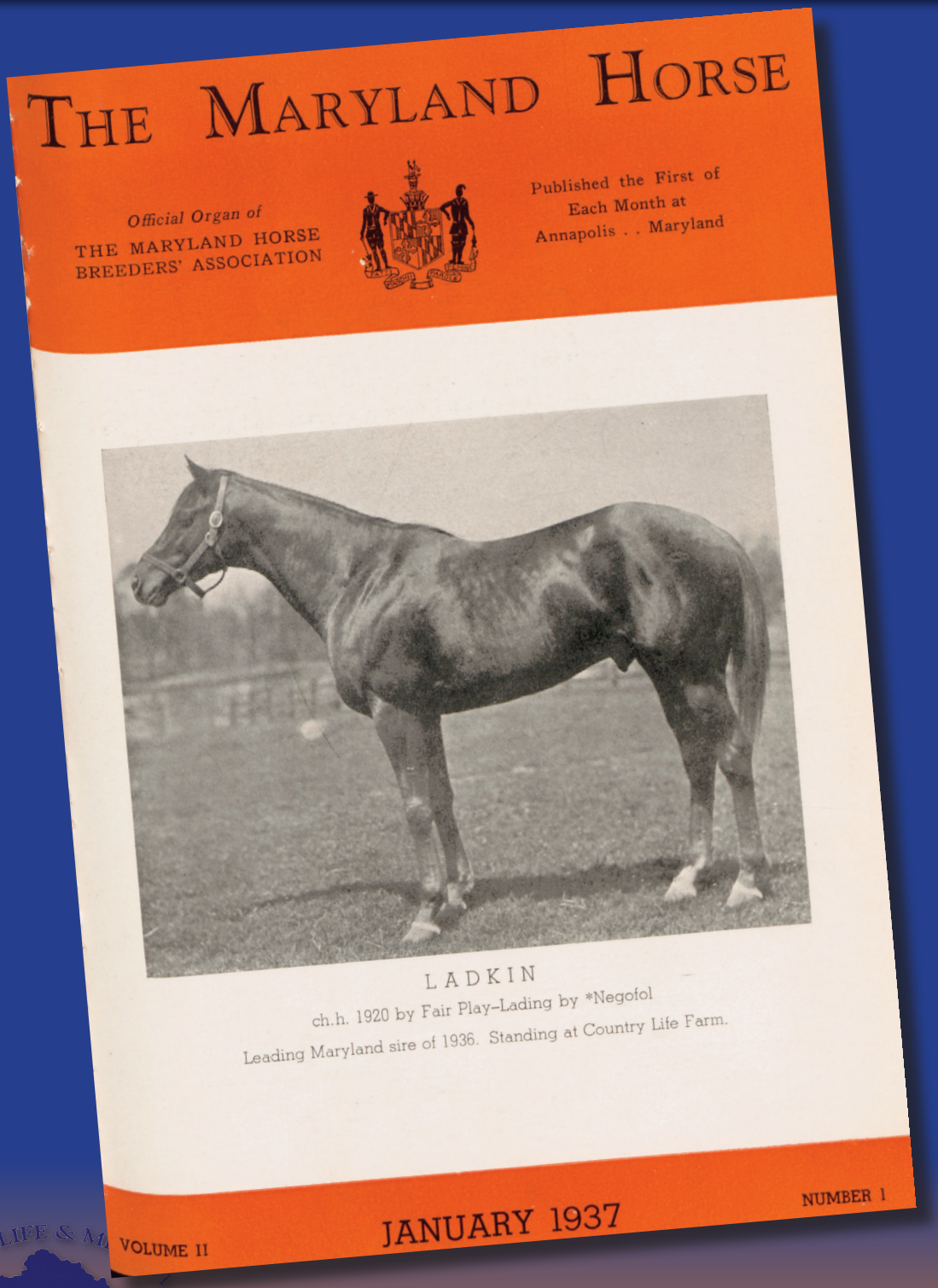

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Upset at the Hunt Cup

Vintage Vinnie was going for a historic third consecutive win in America's oldest steeplechase. Withoutmoreado had other ideas, and gave owner Irv Naylor his third win in the race. By Joe Clancy. Page 24

Mooney retires after long career in racing

An executive at Delaware Park and other tracks in the region for decades, John Mooney looks back at career and ahead to life as a fan. By John Piassek. Page 30

Health Notes: Prepping yearlings for sales

Yearlings destined for the auction ring this year need fairly constant care and attention. Being proactive and planning ahead matter now more than ever. By Jen Roytz. Page 38

Tour de Force at Grand National

Monbeg Stream powers to victory in timber stakes for owners Dyson Dryden and John Greene. By Joe Clancy. Page 44

Repeat at My Lady's Manor

Irish-bred Tomgarrow delivers a repeat in historic Maryland timber race for Tennessee-based owners Mark McMillan and Mark George . By Joe Clancy. Page 48

Ageless at the Virginia Gold Cup

Mystic Strike, 14 years young, gets the biggest win of his career for Pennsylvania trainer Todd McKenna in 4-mile timber stakes; plus steeplechase news roundup. By Joe Clancy. Page 52

On our cover: Withoutmoreado charges down the stretch to win the Maryland Hunt Cup for owner Irv Naylor, trainer Kathy Neilson and teenage jockey Conor Tierney. *Photo by Douglas Lees*

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Derby Magic!

MAGE

becomes Fasig-Tipton's 21st Kentucky Derby (G1) winner

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Congratulations to owners OGMA Investments, LLC, Ramiro Restrepo, Sterling Racing LLC and CMNWLTH; trainer Gustavo Delgado; consignor Sequel Bloodstock; and buyer OGMA Investments LLC/ Marquee Bloodstock, agent.

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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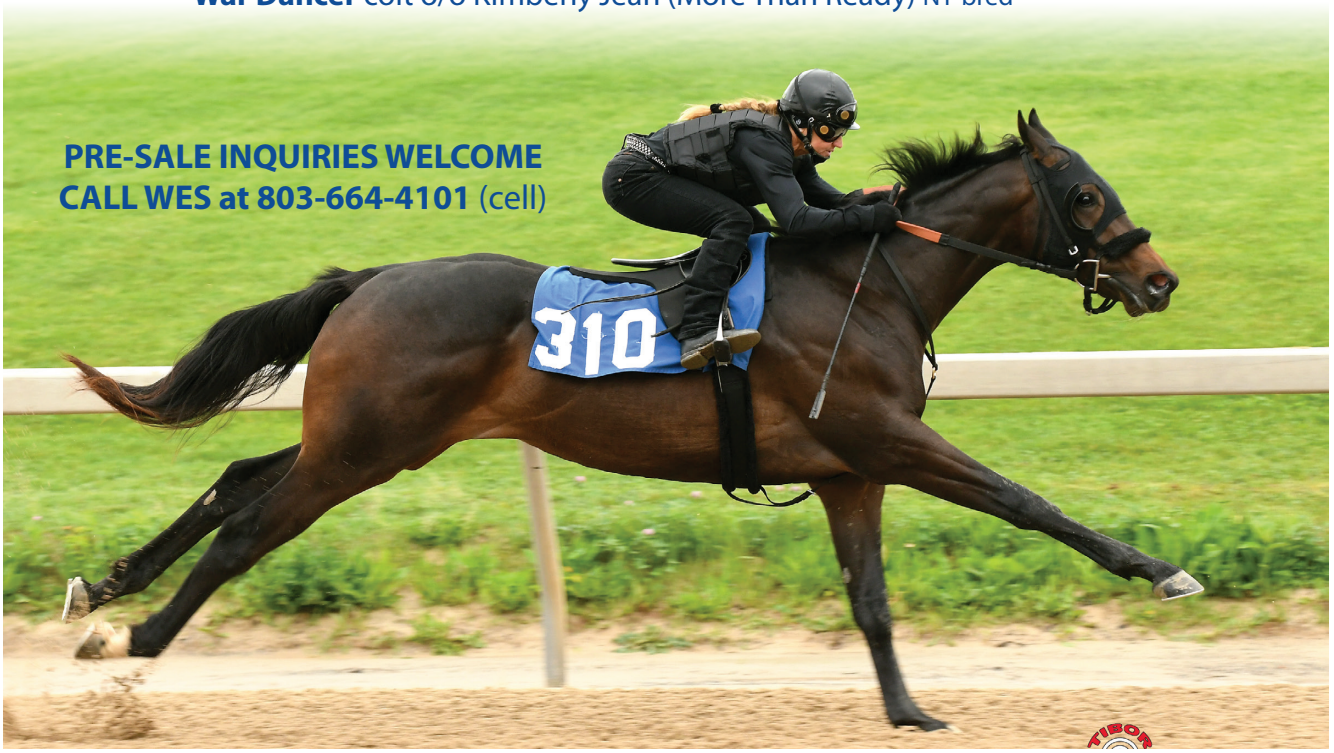
Force the Pass filly o/o Miss Golden Freud (Freud) MD-bred, MM
Goldencents filly o/o City Diva (City Zip) KY-bred
Good Samaritan filly o/o Arguably (Sky Mesa) NY-bred
Good Samaritan colt o/o Joyce (Rock Hard Ten) KY-bred
Imagining gelding o/o Carolina Tapper (Tapit) MD-bred, MM
Jimmy Creed colt o/o My Gray Lady (Giant's Causeway) NY-bred
Micromanage gelding o/o Autumn Ash (Tapit) NY-bred
Summer Front colt o/o Majorelle (Mizzen Mast) KY-bred
War Dancer colt o/o Kimberly Jean (More Than Ready) NY-bred



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Post Time

DERBY DAY. A massive crowd of 150,335 watches the Kentucky Derby field navigate the first turn at Churchill Downs May 6. Eventual winner Mage, who sold at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic in Maryland last year, was 14th along the rail at this stage.

Scott Serio / Eclipse Sportswire

Say It Again

"It took eight years to have a horse run here."
Owner Michael Lund Petersen, who lives adjacent to the Grand National timber course in Butler, Md., on finally having a runner in Druid's Altar (Ire); he was pulled up.

"Don't ruin anybody's hunting on account of me."
Harcourt Lees' instructions – relayed by his son Douglas – on scheduling his funeral; he died July 21, 2013 (at 91) so no days of foxhunting were lost

"Soap, starch, bleach, safety pins, butterfly collar supports . . ."
Trainer Todd McKenna, listing the bits and bobs of his day job owning and operating FM Supply, a dry-cleaning supply business

"Make sure your mother doesn't see the fences or she will bring you to the airport and take you home."
Trainer Kathy Neilson, to jockey Conor Tierney before the Maryland Hunt Cup

Names of the Month

Porch Swing. The 3-year-old gelding, bred in Maryland by his owner/trainer Hamilton Smith, is out of Sittin' n' Sippin. Porch Swing won at Laurel Park May 5.

Jones Falls. Owner/breeder Richie Blue's 3-year-old gelding is by Long River. The Jones Falls begins as a small creek in Baltimore County at the intersection of Caves and Garrison roads, turns into a river south of Lake Roland and travels a total of 18 miles to Baltimore's Inner Harbor while being joined by various streams.

Go Figure

1 Horse with a crab clipped into his hair at the Grand National steeplechase meet in April. Profiteer's left hip sported the state's favorite crustacean.

1 Steeplechase fan carrying a bottle of Andre champagne at My Lady's Manor.

4 Steeplechase winners sired by Flintshire (GB) in 2022 and 2023.

19 Times Galerio has finished second in 38 starts (through May 16). The Maryland-bred was the runner-up, again, at Laurel Park May 6. The 7-year-old stakes winner has finished second in three consecutive races three times, lost six by a neck or less and has also won 10 races.

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Milestones

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Speedy Smithwick with his Hall of Fame father Mikey Smithwick at Fair Hill in the 1980s.

Remembered:

At two spring steeplechase meets, horseman D.M. "Speedy" Smithwick, who died in April 2022. At My Lady's Manor in April, the best turned-out awards were given in Smithwick's memory. At the Manor, a program advertisement put it simply: "He fostered many grooms over the years from his base at Sunnybank Farm in Virginia, where horses were given the best of care." Son of Hall of Fame trainer and amateur jockey Mikey Smithwick and trainer Dot Smithwick, Speedy died in April 2022 at age 62. In addition to prizes for each race, grooms received hats paying tribute to the Manor and Speedy. In May, the Virginia Gold Cup meet carded the $50,000 Speedy Smithwick Memorial Stakes for 4-year-old hurdlers. Like his parents, Smithwick trained and rode steeplechase horses and won graded flat stakes as a trainer with Zignew and Double Found. As an amateur jockey, he won the Iroquois Steeplechase three times with Uncle Edwin.

Won:

His fifth career race, Mr. Versatility Who's Counting, at Laurel Park May 5. South Branch Equine's 5-year-old gelding won a Maryland-bred/sired allowance going 1 1/16 miles on the turf a month after finishing fourth in the Carolina Cup Stakes going 2 1/8 miles over hurdles. The homebred son of Vancouver (Aus) and the Henrythenavigator mare Counter Measure has won twice over jumps and three times on the flat for trainer (and sometimes jockey) Sean McDermott. Who's Counting was the Maryland-bred steeplechase champion of 2022.

TOD MARKS

You Can't Make This Stuff Up

In the third race at the My Lady's Manor timber races in April, Mr. Fine Threads (who races barefoot) finished second to a horse named Stolen Shoes.

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Milestones

Received:

The 2023 Virgil "Buddy" Raines Distinguished Achievement Award from Monmouth Park, trainer Pat McBurney, a fixture at Monmouth for more than four decades and president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. The award, in its 28th year, is presented annually just prior to Monmouth's season opener. The track's 78th season began May 13. "It's a tremendous honor to receive this award because of what it means to Thoroughbred racing in New Jersey," said McBurney. "It's an impressive list of past recipients so it's a great honor to join them." McBurney, who spent the first half of his career as an assistant to the late John Forbes (the 2006 Raines Award winner), went out on his own full-time in 2007. McBurney saddled his first winner May 13, 2007 when Cable Boy won at Monmouth. "Pat's tireless efforts on behalf of New Jersey horsemen and racing in general in the state, and his success as a trainer, make him a worthy recipient," said Dennis Drazin, chairman and CEO of Darby Development, operator of Monmouth Park. McBurney has won 333 races, with Grade 3 winners Golden Brown and Just Call Kenny his top runners. Golden Brown, still racing at age 8, has won 10 of 40 starts with earnings of $821,080. Just Call Kenny's top achievement was winning the 2019 Philip Iselin Stakes at Monmouth. The award honors Raines, who trained 1962 Preakness Stakes winner Greek Money, champion Open Fire, Grade 1 winner Timely Warning and other standouts over a long career while building a reputation for class, integrity and excellence.

Won:

His 3,000th race, trainer Ronney Brown, when Castle Lights pulled a 19-1 upset in a Charles Town allowance race May 13. Brown started his first horses in 1986 and has topped 100 wins in a season a dozen times. Based at Charles Town, Brown followed his father into racing and worked at the track during summers starting in 1978. He worked in construction before getting a trainer's license in 1986. Brown's ranks 38th on the all-time wins list among North

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

April 9 – May 8

Maryland-bred

ALWAYSINAHURRY, b.g., 2018, Great Notion—Otherwise Perfect, by Lemon Drop Kid. B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman & Rebecca Davis; O-Mopo Racing; T-Phillip Capuano. $100,000 Frank Y. Whiteley S, Laurel, April 15.

PRINCESS KOKACHIN, dk.b./br.m., 2018, Graydar—Serenity Hill, by Speightstown. B-Nancy & Eric Rizer; O-Eric Rizer; T-John J. Robb. $100,000 Primonetta S, Laurel, April 29.

Pennsylvania-bred

CARAVEL, gr./ro.m., 2017, Mizzen Mast—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats. B-Elizabeth Merryman; O-Qatar Racing, Marc Detampel & Madaket Stables; T-Brad Cox. $300,000 Unbridled Sidney S, Churchill, May 5.

MORNING MATCHA, b.f., 2019, Central Banker—Home Ice, by Iam the Iceman. B-Crane Thoroughbred Services; O-LC Racing, Cash is King & Gary Barber; T-Robert Reid Jr. $100,000 Unique Bella S, Parx, April 24.

NIMITZ CLASS, dk.b./br.c., 2019, Munnings—Five Diamonds, by Flatter. B-Arrowwood Farm; O-Tom Coulter; T-Bruce Kravets. $100,000 Native Dancer S, Laurel, April 29.

TWISTED RIDE, b.g., 2019, Great Notion—Diva's Gold, by Tenpins. B-Kasey K Racing Stable; O-Kasey K Racing Stable, Michael Day & Final Turn Racing Stable; T-Michael Moore. $100,000 Page McKenney H, Parx, April 24.

Virginia-bred

REPO ROCKS, dk.b./br.g., 2018, Tapiture—Hawaiian Love, by Not For Love. B-Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III; O-Double B Racing Stables; T-Jamie Ness. $175,000 Westchester S-G3, Belmont Park, May 5.

West Virginia-bred

COASTAL MISSION, gr./ro.g., 2019, Great Notion—Smart Crowd, by Crowd Pleaser. B/O-Coleswood Farm; T-Jeff Runco. $75,000 Confucius Say S, Charles Town, April 22.

LIGHTNIN RUNNER, b.f., 2020, Battalion Runner—My Lightnin Strike, by Mineshaft. B-Ronney & Nicole Brown; O-George Nyren; T-Angel Rodriguez. $75,000 Its Binn Too Long S, Charles Town, April 29.

LUCYLOU WHO, ch.f., 2019, Sky Mesa—R C's Daisyduke, by Yes It's True. B/O-Robert Cole Jr.; T-Emanuel Geralis. $75,000 Original Gold S, Charles Town, April 15.

89th Annual

MHBA

THOROUGHBRED

Yearling Show

Sunday, July 23 at 10 a.m.

Judge: TBA

Purse awards totaling $40,000

Horse Show Ring, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium

Entries close June 26th

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Yearling Show Purse awards total $40,000

There are two opportunities to win purse awards with the yearling you show in 2023. A $40,000 MHBA Yearling Show purse will be split and distributed twice: $20,000 will go to the top four money-winners racing as 2-year-olds in 2024* and another $20,000 will be awarded the following year to the four highest-earning 3-year-old performers*.

**all earnings verifiable by The Jockey Club*

Four classes. Maryland-sired colts and geldings; Maryland-sired fillies; out-of-state-sired colts and geldings; out-of-state-sired fillies.

Cash awards. **$1,000** in CASH AWARDS to ribbon winners in each class plus **$1,000** for grand champion, **$500** for reserve champion. Trophies and ribbons in each class. Award of **$100** to the groom of the best turned-out yearling in each class. All entries must be eligible for Maryland-bred registration.

Maryland Million cash awards. The Maryland Million certified yearling earning the highest ribbon in each class will receive **$100.**

Get of sire award. **$1,000** to the sire whose offspring earn the most points.

2022 GRAND CHAMPION
Hillwood Stables' Bandbox colt out of Dearie Be Good

American trainers while also amassing $36.3 million in purse earnings. Brown and his wife Nicole operate Pellinor Lane Farm, home of stallions Bullsbay and Vorticity.

Reached:

Six figures in sales results at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's spring 2-year-old sale April 25-28, five regional-bred juveniles. A Virginia-bred Mitole filly out of the Mineshaft mare Gemini R N topped the list at $400,000 on a bid by Gentry. The filly, a half-sister to four winners, worked a furlong on :09.4 for consignor Julie Davies. Consignor Wavertree sold a Virginia-bred filly by Candy Ride (Arg) out of Mineshaft mare Un Blessed for $142,000. Purchased by Three Diamonds Farm, the filly is a half-sister to graded stakes winner Chess Chief. A Pennsylvania-bred Mendelssohn filly out of the Exchange Rate mare Guise sold for $260,000 to Jay Hanley via the Paul Sharp consignment. Two Maryland-breds reached six figures as well – a $350,000 half-sister to Breeders' Cup winner Aloha West by Divining Rod and a $250,000 Arrogate filly out of the Candy Ride (Arg) mare Hay Dilly. See the *Maryland Horse* section for more.

ELLEN B. PONS

Yes, it's a Thoroughbred! Of all the stallions in the world, New Zealander Erana Shattock chose Divining Rod as a mate for her registered Thoroughbred mare Amber Empress (R H F Golden Globe–Lady Livingston, by El Prado-Ire) to ensure she would get this palomino foal born at Maryland's Country Life Farm May 2.

THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Amended HISA is constitutional, district court rules: A district court ruling that the amended Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act is constitutional likely sends the case back to the Fifth Circuit reports Frank Vespe.

Off the Pace – what they're saying about HISA: Mike Valiante reached out to several folks involved in racing to learn what they're saying about HISA.

For Charlie Mcintosh, a long journey to Charles Town: In his long career, Charles Town director of racing Charlie McIntosh has pretty much seen it all, including horses and dogs racing on the same card. Ted Black tells the story.

Golden Angel is "one for mom": James Blackwell thought he would sell his yearling filly, but fate and fortune had other plans for Golden Angel. Story by Teresa Genaro.

Salzman barn has clean sweep of Laurel juvenile races: Trainer John Salzman Jr. has made a habit of being ready for the first 2-year-old races in Maryland. He did it again, sweeping Laurel Park's first two of 2023. Vespe reports.

Backtracks – Smarty Jones' magical ride: Pennsylvania-bred Smarty Jones was a serious racehorse, but there was more to his popularity than that. Kelly takes a look back at his classic ride.

Off the Pace: the, err… less good Kentucky Derby winners: Lots of folks opine on which Kentucky Derby winners were best. Mike Valiante headed in the other direction to see what he could learn.

Delaware Park 2023 STAKES SCHEDULE

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RACE	DISTANCE	TO BE RUN	PURSE (Guaranteed)	CLOSES	NOM-FEES
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The Alapocas Run Stakes - Grade BT 3 Year Olds & Upward	**6 furlongs**	**July 1**	**$100,000**	**June 17**	**FREE**
The Robert G. Dick Memorial - Grade III Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	**1 mile & 3/8 (Turf)**	**July 1**	**$250,000**	**June 17**	**$100**
THE DELAWARE HANDICAP - Grade II Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	**1 mile & 3/16**	**July 8**	**$500,000**	**June 24**	**$250**
The Battery Park Stakes - Grade BT For 3 Year Olds & Upward	**1 mile & 1/16**	**July 8**	**$150,000**	**June 24**	**$50**
The Dashing Beauty Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	**6 furlongs**	**July 8**	**$100,000**	**June 24**	**FREE**
The Kent Stakes - Listed For 3 Year Olds	**1 mile & 3/8 (Turf)**	**July 15**	**$150,000**	**July 1**	**$50**
The Christiana Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies 3 Year Olds	**1 mile & 1/8 (Turf)**	**July 15**	**$150,000**	**July 1**	**$50**
The Cape Henlopen Stakes - Listed 3 Year Olds & Upward	**1 mile & 1/2 (Turf)**	**Sept 16**	**$200,000**	**Sept 2**	**$100**
The White Clay Creek Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies-2 Year Olds	**1 mile**	**Oct 13**	**$100,000**	**Sept 30**	**FREE**
The Rocky Run Stakes - Grade BT For 2 Year Olds	**1 mile**	**Oct 14**	**$100,000**	**Sept 30**	**FREE**

Horsemen please remember to check all condition books for Overnight Stakes that are not listed here for the 2023 Racing Season.

For more info call 302.636.1076 or email: Jed Doro (jerome.doro@delawarepark.com) | Lori Smock (lori.smock@delawarepark.com) | Phil Wasiluk (philip.wasiluk@delawarepark.com)

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Hunt Cup dazzles another newcomer

By John Piassek

As a racing fan who came of age on the East Coast, it's difficult not to have at least some familiarity with steeplechase racing. I watched with curiosity every summer at Saratoga, and made a point to head to Monmouth Park whenever a jump race was part of the program, but it wasn't until I moved to Maryland last July that I gained a deeper appreciation.

I became acquainted with the Maryland Timber Triple at the My Lady's Manor in Monkton, Grand National in Butler and, most importantly, Maryland Hunt Cup in Glyndon.

At the start of the steeplechase season, I visited the Green Spring Valley Hunt Point-to-Point at Shawan Downs, and later, the Grand National. To a flat racing fan, they were unusual experiences, but gave me a deeper appreciation for the sport. Of course, these were but appetizers for the Hunt Cup, which I knew was conducted over 4 miles across giant timber fences. On the recommendation of some co-workers, I cleared my calendar for Saturday, April 29 and decided to make my maiden trek to the Maryland Hunt Cup. Armed with a parking pass, a program, and a crash course from director of publications Barrie Reightler on the course layout, I set my sights on Glyndon early that afternoon.

Getting there was a bit more challenging than heading to Laurel or Pimlico, because there is no specific address. You can't just type "Maryland Hunt Cup" into your GPS and be on your way. Thanks to the aforementioned help, I knew the race took place around the intersection of

Photographer Tisa Della-Volpe's made her first trip to the Maryland Hunt Cup as well. She captured the entries nearing the paddock after their (long) walk from the barns at J.W.Y. Martin Jr.'s Worthington Farms across Tufton Avenue.

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Dover Road and Tufton Avenue, so I figured it made sense to drive in that direction and, much like explorers using the North Star as a guide, drive until I saw a mass of cars. That proved a good bet, as I found my way and settled in.

The parking lot was simply a grass field, filled with high-school and college-aged kids playing games, listening to music and enjoying the afternoon. Were it not for their preppy attire, the scene could've passed as the parking lot for a country music concert.

It was a bit of a hike from the general parking lot to the track itself, but I made it. Any Laurel railbird would find it an unusual place to watch racing. There are no betting windows, no grandstand, no TVs. I brought my binoculars and the past performances, but not many other fans had either accessory. The course is vaguely oval-shaped, but takes enough twists and turns that no fence is jumped twice.

What makes the Hunt Cup unusual from other steeplechase meets, and especially from a day at a flat track, is that there are no undercard races. You can't watch other live races or simulcasts from other tracks. On top of that, cell phone service is spotty and the internet is virtually nonexistent, so it's a purely in-the-moment experience. It's as much a social event as it is a race.

I made my way around the tailgate lots, checked out the scene, and eventually connected with some people I knew. As post time approached, I excused myself and made my way to the top of the (very steep) hill that overlooks the course and provides an excellent vantage point.

I knew enough to understand that Vintage Vinnie (Ire) was a two-time winner, that he was trying to become the first horse since 1947 to win three consecutive Hunt Cups, and that he was known for opening long leads and never looking back. Could he pull it off again?

As the race started and they made their way across Tufton Avenue and around the course, two things stuck out. One, with Vintage Vinnie only a few lengths in front early on, he might be in trouble. Two, these fences are incredible. It's one thing to hear about them, another to see them before the race. But when you see how much the horses must exert just to make it over one jump, you realize this isn't any ordinary race. There's a reason why this race is so prestigious. Making it over all 22 fences is a feat worthy of celebration.

Having scoured past charts, I knew it was unlikely all eight runners would finish. Indeed, in the back half of the race, they slowly began peeling off. Vintage Vinnie was one of the final four in the contest, but he gave way after the 18th fence and was eased. With more than 3 miles in the books, only two runners remained: Withoutmoreado (Ire) and Royal Ruse. As they charged down the stretch, I thought, what would happen if both failed to finish? It might be a tad awkward.

There was nothing to worry about, as Withoutmoreado kicked clear over the last few fences and won going away. The crowd let out a cheer as he hit the wire, giving Irv Naylor his third Hunt Cup win and trainer Kathy Neilson her second. No matter what type of racing it is, the crowd always gets excited when the horses hit the wire.

The final time was posted a little while after the end of the race: 8:49.80, or an average of just over 2:12 per minute. That's much slower than even the cheapest flat runners go on a sloppy track at Laurel, but given the Hunt Cup's nature, it's impressive just to finish the race at all.

With the results official, I bounded down the hill and made my way back to the general lot, in hopes of beating the traffic jam that was sure to envelop the one-lane-each-way road. I headed home after another unique Maryland racing experience.

For anyone who hasn't been to the Hunt Cup: it's worth seeing. It's a sociable event by its nature, so be sure to see who else you know is going and let them know in advance (especially in advance). Get there early (lots open at 11 a.m, five hours before post) and check out some of the fences up close, especially the third and 13th, which run parallel to each other just past Tufton Avenue and stand a whopping 4-foot-9. It won't be until the race starts, however, that you'll grasp the true horsepower needed to navigate this race. There's truly nothing like it.

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— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Tahir

MAGGIE KIMMITT

After her first trip to Aiken, S.C., in 2008, Christy Heffner put relocating to the area at the top of her bucket list. Eleven years later, she achieved the goal.

In 2019, "I brought three kids, two dogs, three horses and three chickens from Huntingtown, Maryland," she said. "Once Aiken gets in your blood, it stays there."

One of those horses was Tahir, now 19. Bred in Kentucky by Adena Springs, he is by 1997 Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Touch Gold out of the Holy Bull mare Holy Golightly. Adena Springs offered him at its 2-year-old sale in 2006, where he was a $45,000 RNA.

Tahir began his racing career for Stronach Stables and trainer Roberto Calvo at Gulfstream Park as a 3-year-old in February 2007. He chased the pace, got tired and finished sixth in a maiden special going 6 furlongs on the dirt.

He didn't face the starter again until December 2008 at Laurel Park, still for Stronach but from the barn of trainer Justin Nixon. Tahir's two wins – an $8,000 maiden claimer and a $5,000 conditioned claimer – came for those connections at the same track in January and February 2009.

Five months later, Tahir resurfaced at Colonial Downs for new connections – owners Charles Hall and Jann Anderson, with Anderson doubling as the trainer. In all, Tahir made six starts for Hall and Anderson, never better than a fourth in July 2009. His final start came at Laurel for a $5,000 tag, and he

finished last. His not-so-impressive race record included 10 starts, two wins and $10,406 earned.

None of that mattered to Hall and Anderson, who kept the horse with plans to make him the stable pony. Several months later, Heffner saw him listed as available for rehoming. Anderson had been injured on another horse and was looking to place him.

"At the time I volunteered for and was on the board of directors for a Thoroughbred rescue, and he was listed through them," Heffner said. "It went from there."

Accompanied by her longtime friend and riding instructor, Karen Jones, Heffner ventured to Anderson's Laurel Park barn.

"He hadn't been ridden in about six months," Jones said. "All they did was walk the shed with him while they did his stall. So we went up on probably the coldest day the earth has ever seen. Howling wind. Jann and Charlie were there, they brought him out and our eyes kinda popped wide open. I said, 'He's coming home with one of us. You get first dibs.' And she took him.' "

On March 17, 2011, Tahir arrived at Heffner's Huntingtown home in Calvert County.

"He was a bit round when he got here," she remembered. "And covered with dapples. Mr. Charlie had taken very good care of him."

In keeping with the St. Patrick's Day theme, her 7-year-old twin daughters Carly and Cassidy thought the dapples looked like doubloons found in the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. Hence, they rechristened him "Golden."

"He didn't really need downtime, as he'd had it at Laurel," Heffner said. "Two or three weeks after I got him, I trailered him over to Karen's and I think we had five lessons that first week. He was so good, but he wasn't so fit, which was fine. We took it very slowly with him, and he was a doll."

Heffner's daughters – the same age as Tahir – grew up riding him and still ride today. The original hope was that he would become Cassidy Heffner's event horse.

"For whatever reason, they didn't click, so I ended up riding him most of the time," said Heffner. "Then we used him in lessons sometimes. My daughter Carly wasn't as interested in riding, but that summer, the switch really flipped for her."

"That summer" was 2018, when Heffner, a special education teacher, packed up her three kids and horses and vanned to Aiken from June through August. Jones had moved the year before, re-establishing her lesson business just minutes from the center of town.

That summer led to more visits, and in April 2019, everything changed. Heffner and her kids were in Aiken for Easter when a listing came up on a property literally across the street from Jones. Paradise found.

> "There was never really an agenda with him. His value is not defined by a ribbon."
> *– Christy Heffner*

"So I texted my agent, we looked at it Saturday and made an offer that night," Heffner said. "They accepted it on Monday. Turned out the gentleman who owned it was also from Southern Maryland. It was turnkey, everything was all there. He had done all the maintenance, everything was perfect. The barn has eight stalls. It's just us, but I do have a guest house and sometimes those people bring horses."

The cottage attached to the barn is offered as an Airbnb, and guests have remained constant since Heffner moved in. Proximity to Augusta National Golf Course is also a big draw. Heffner and Jones stay booked during The Masters tournament.

"It's fantastic, because between the two of us we've got everything we need," Jones said. "Christy's got the stalls, I've got the arena. It's just a great symbiosis. We've been friends almost 25 years."

Tahir has logged quite a few miles in the 12 years he's been with Heffner. He shares his life with a 6-year-old retired Thoroughbred and a 30-something pony. One of Heffner's greatest joys is hacking with guests to Aiken's famed Hitchcock Woods, which the bay gelding loves.

He's also used frequently in Jones' lesson program, where his riders have ranged from ages 7 to 75.

"Christy is very generous with her horses, and he's always been a saint," said Jones. "He's so quiet. But if a very experienced rider gets on him and says, 'Let's go,' he goes."

Tahir wasn't much of a racehorse, never made it as an eventer, but found a purpose – and then some.

"There was never really an agenda with him," Heffner said. "His value is not defined by a ribbon." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

A Big Life: Maryland breeder Higgins will be missed

Donald Barr and Milton Higgins were born in the same Massachusetts hospital, not that that made them instant friends or even the same age, but it was at least the taproot of a long friendship. It ended in April when Higgins died in Hawaii. He was 85.

Higgins – officially Milton P. Higgins III – bred and owned Thoroughbreds in Maryland. He served on the Maryland Horse Breeders Association board of directors, became the treasurer, poured plenty of work into the responsibility. He helped people, supported causes, studied pedigrees, owned horses, bred horses, sold horses, bought horses. Barr trained horses for Higgins. Dr. Tom Bowman and his family co-bred horses with Higgins. All were in regular contact with the man about horses.

Among the many influential Thoroughbreds Higgins bred and/or owned were Who Wouldn't, a Bowman and Higgins homebred who won 13 races and earned $448,187 topped by a score in the 1995 General George Handicap-G2 as part of a five-race winning streak. Higgins bought Dear Janet (the dam of Who Wouldn't) for $9,500 as a yearling.

"Milton always wanted a Full Pocket mare, he was huge at doing a lot of research – mares' backgrounds, all that, he was really into that – and this was a Full Pocket yearling," Barr said. "We were trying to buy a mare, but that was him too. He made it work."

Dear Janet won four races. Her son nearly made it to the Breeders' Cup Sprint.

Bowman and Higgins campaigned Richetta, who won five races (four stakes) and $296,848 for trainer Robin Graham. Richetta's foals included $461,140 earner Concealed Identity, stakes winner Peach of a Gal and seven other winners. Bowman and Higgins bred Love the Chase, sold her as a 2-year-old and watched her become a winner in California. She went on to produce two-time Horse of the Year California Chrome. He will be inducted into racing's Hall of Fame this summer.

Higgins grew up in Worcester, Mass. His great-grandfather founded the Norton Company, which turned into a worldwide business specializing in abrasives such as sandpaper and grinding wheels. Today, it's part of the Saint-Gobain company, and employs 2,200 people in the United States and Canada. Higgins' father was the third-generation president and chairman of the board until his retirement in 1974 and became one of Worcester's leading citizens. He had board seats with area banks, led the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (a technological university founded in 1865) and the Worcester Art Museum, and served on the President's Business Council during the Lyndon Johnson administration.

His son was destined to follow that path, but also blazed his own. He went to college in Colorado and competed in rodeos before circling back to the professional world to get a master's degree and help navigate the family company through a hostile takeover and ultimately a sale.

"He was sort of a rebel, a rare combination of, 'I'll do it my way' and enough brains to graduate from Harvard and run a company," said Bowman. "When I first met him, he was living in New England, but he moved to New Mexico because he wanted to have a ranch out there."

A Quarter Horse connection led Higgins to Barr, and then to Bowman.

"I trained horses for a guy in Kentucky who had an employee who had a horse for Milton when Milton was in the Quarter Horse business," Barr said. "He was in Santa Fe,

and they sent a horse to me because I was from Massachusetts I guess. Then I met Milton. He was never a very public individual, but if you knew him there was a lot to know."

Higgins and some partners started buying mares as potential breeding stock, and recruited Bowman to help with evaluations. Then Bowman and Higgins started working together.

"It went on from there and we had a relationship the rest of our lives," said Barr. "We were in the same league – Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins – he was a great sports fan, a big Red Sox fan. We never thought they'd ever win anything for pretty much all our lives. Now look."

After finding ways to lose for 86 years, the Red Sox won four World Series between 2004 and 2018. Barr's training career is in its sixth decade. Higgins co-bred the dam of a Hall of Famer, and five Maryland-bred champions. Awesome Flower (bred with Tom and Chris Bowman and Three Chimneys Farm) earned $556,593. Her half-brother First Mondays sold for $450,000 as a yearling. Bowman's daughter Becky Davis narrated that 2016 sale to Higgins over the phone. There were tears.

Higgins read all he could about racing and breeding, studied pedigrees and kept working to improve the various components of a business plan that involved mares, stallion seasons, sales drafts and racing.

"He always said one of his great joys was reading about Thoroughbred horses, studying pedigrees and just following it," said Bowman. "We had a five-year plan. He was providing some of the money for stud fees, we were caring for the horses, getting them to the sales or the racetrack. Last year's sale crop was pretty good."

For years, Higgins sent Bowman a regular email with notes about horses – some they bred, some they owned, some they had talked about, some with no connection whatsoever to the two friends. For several mornings after Higgins died, Bowman looked for the email.

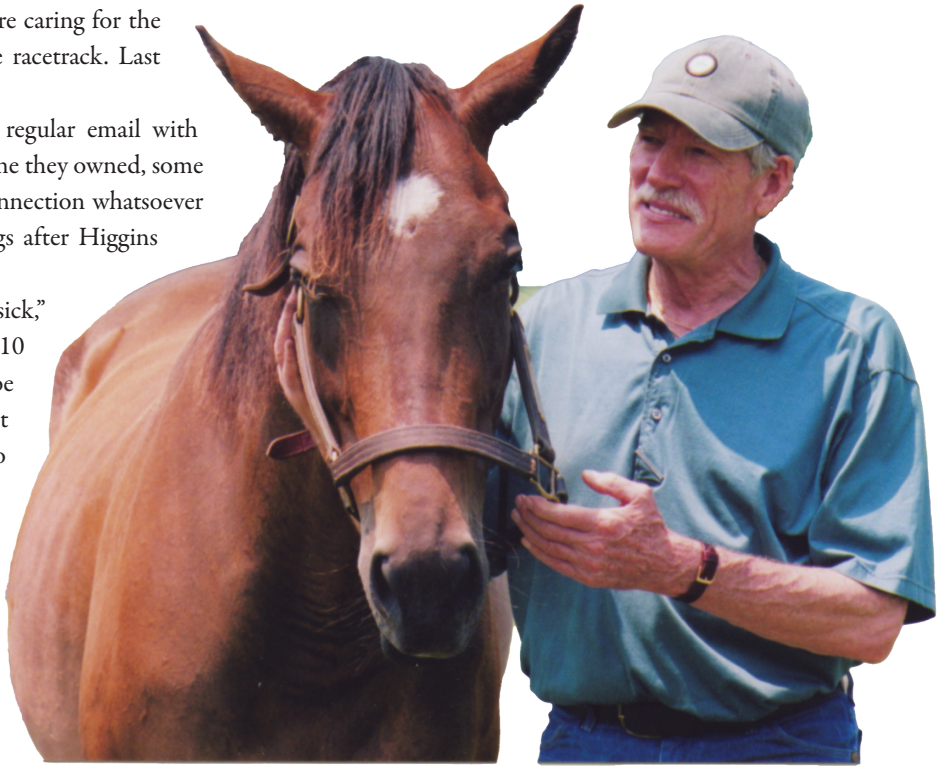
"We had no idea he was sick, or that sick," Bowman said. "He had moved to Hawaii 10 years or so ago, for the climate and to be closer to his brother. We always thought he would come back. I talked to him two days before he died and he was talking about who we were going to breed mares to next year – not this year, next year."

Long a supporter of various causes such as the Maryland racing scholarship fund, Higgins made an impact on lives with everything from small gestures to big gifts. A simple note reached Bowman crediting Higgins with helping someone overcome addiction. Another pointed to Higgins' support of programs at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center veterinary hospital. A Higgins donation helped support a small community church in Maryland. He may have never been there.

"He was absolutely a first-class human being," Bowman said. "One of the turning points of my life would have to be when I met him. He was just an exemplary person on his approach to life. He was a little bit of a social renegade. He marched to his own drummer, but he had convictions. He believed in human beings, almost like there was nobody too bad not to help."

For all that good work, Higgins was not one to seek attention.

"Getting him to talk about himself was difficult, you had to work at it, so I don't know exactly what made him turn to horses and racing," Bowman said. "I think it was a little bit of, 'I'm going to go to Colorado, I'm going to have a ranch, I'm going to be a cowboy . . .' How many of us have said that? Some of us might even go out west and work on a ranch for a while or something. Milton had the financial means to actually do it. Was he a big-time cowboy? I doubt it. Was he a great bronc rider? I doubt it. But he did it. You know that song by Sinatra, 'I Did it My Way?' They should play that at his funeral." ■



The Steeplechase Times

MARYLAND HUNT CUP

The Comeback Kid

WITHOUTMOREADO CAPTURES TIMBER CLASSIC FOR NAYLOR, NEILSON

By Joe Clancy

When Withoutmoreado (Ire) arrived in trainer Kathy Neilson's barn from Ireland in 2019, the 5-year-old made a strong first impression – natural jumper, quick learner, gears, all of it. The runaway winner of an English point-to-point and £60,000 purchase by owner Irv Naylor at the Tattersalls April Cheltenham sale made his American debut at Shawan Downs that September.

And fell in a 3-mile timber race for amateur/apprentice jockeys. His form didn't get much better as he was beaten 30 lengths when eighth the next month at Middleburg and he finished that season with two losses over hurdles while Neilson fished for answers.

DOUGLAS LEES

Maryland Hunt Cup winners (from left) Diane Naylor, Kathy Neilson, Irv Naylor and Conor Tierney accept the trophies.

"That was my fault," Neilson said of the bumpy start. "I was like, 'This is a good horse, this is a weapon.' I ran him and I scared him. We had to circle back and start over."

Never did a restart button pay bigger dividends.

Withoutmoreado went back to school with Neilson's daughter Skylar McKenna that winter, returned the next year, won once each in 2021 and 2022 and upset the 126th Maryland Hunt Cup April 29. Owned by longtime Hunt Cup participant Irv Naylor and ridden by Irish teenager Conor Tierney, the 9-year-old stalked back-to-back Hunt Cup winner Vintage Vinnie (Ire) for more than 3 miles, took over after 18 fences and outran Royal Ruse through the stretch to win by 10¾ lengths after 4 miles in 8:49.80. They were the only two finishers from a field of eight in the $100,000 timber stakes run on soft turf over its tradition-bound course in Glyndon's Worthington Valley.

The win completed a turnaround for a horse who looked lost after those first few starts. McKenna credited timber schooling sessions in her aunt Sanna Neilson's field in Pennsylvania when most of the steeplechase schedule was lost to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

"Sanna has a pretty good timber course of 12 fences, three-railers, four-railers, we jump in and out of fields, all kinds of different fences," McKenna said. "Every single week, I would

Withoutmoreado scales the last fence.

ROBERT KELLER

ROBERT KELLER

The field stretches out over the first fence of the 4-mile journey with two-time winner Vintage Vinnie (left) showing the way followed by runner-up Royal Ruse, winner Withourmoreado, Rocket Star Red, Shootist, Goodoldtimes and Blackhall.

lead timber horses around there on him and he just made more and more progress. I really think it helped him."

They called it the Greenlawn Point-to-Point for the Chester County road that traverses the various horse farms in the area and nobody got more out of it than Withoutmoreado.

"I was so proud of him," said McKenna, who gallops for flat trainer Jimmy Toner at Fair Hill Training Center when she's not teaching timber horses how to perfect their craft. "I've spent a lot of time on his back and jumped a lot of fences on him. Back when I rode him, he wasn't relaxed or mature about anything. You'd worry about letting him walk around or stand still at the start. He'd try to scoot out one side or the other. Now, if you left him to his own devices, he'd make the right decision."

In his Hunt Cup debut, the son of Shantou handled the soft going and answered the questions posed by the 22 fences. The bay gelding, bred in Ireland by John O'Connor and County Carlow's Burgage Stud, came into the race off a busy 2023 schedule.

With McKenna in the saddle, he took part in the Foxhall Team Race in Maryland March 19. Two weeks later, he and Tierney won over timber at Brandywine Point-to-Point in Pennsylvania. They were third together at Elkridge-Harford in Maryland and fourth behind Monbeg Stream (Ire) in a fast edition of the Grand National timber stakes a week before the Hunt Cup.

"I knew he was in good form, his coat looked good and he was training well," said Neilson. "We had not let it all out at the Grand National and when he ran at Elkridge-Harford Conor never picked up the stick and really asked him. They were steps to the Maryland Hunt Cup, but you never know if they worked."

Not in the Hunt Cup, with its distance, stiff fences, pressure and competition. Every other horse in the race aimed for the historic race, first run in 1894, too along with their owners and trainers.

The 2023 program covered plenty of Hunt Cup history. Naylor – whose silks fly the green, white and gold of the Hunt Cup flag – rode in the race four times, won it twice as an owner, had started a horse in 20 runnings and in 2000 received the Hunt Cup's S. Bryce Wing Award for his contributions to Maryland timber racing. Virginia's Kinross Farm, long in pursuit of a Hunt Cup, came with Blackhall (Ire) from the Davies barn. Sportsmans Hall (a Hunt Cup winner in 2011 with Private Attack) entered Hill Tie, fifth in 2019. Lucy Goelet (a Hunt Cup winner with Twill Do in 2010 and 2012) was represented by 2022 runner-up Rocket Star Red. Charlie Fenwick (who won five times as a jockey and six times as a trainer) and Sanna Neilson (two wins as a jockey and two more as a trainer) sent out Royal Ruse in the old rose and white silks of 1926 winner Billy Barton. Shootist, third at the Grand National, represented Pennsylvania's Upland Partners.

DOUGLAS LEES (3)

The Armata Stables partnership of Perry Bolton and Ben Griswold IV, Hunt Cup winners in 1991, 2021 and 2022, teed up Goodoldtimes (Ire) and the history-seeking Vintage Vinnie.

He set course records in his Hunt Cup wins in 2021 and 2022 – while winning by margins better measured in furlongs than lengths – and was bidding to become the first horse to win three consecutive years since Blockade in 1938, 1939 and 1940. His trainer Joe Davies had won six in a row, and prepped the 14-year-old with two flat races at point-to-points and a second behind Tomgarrow (Ire) in a record-breaking My Lady's Manor April 15.

"I know he's a year older, but he seems good, and he was really good the last two years," Davies said a week before the race. "If he does his thing, he'll be tough to handle."

Davies worried about the ground, softened by heavy rain after weeks of dry weather, and the loss of his jockey/son Teddy to a broken collarbone at the Grand National. Irish amateur Dan Nevin, aboard Vintage Vinnie for the 2021 win, returned to help ease at least some of the load.

The favorite broke with the field, let Royal Ruse lead for a few strides and took command while soaring over the first fence. Withoutmoreado moved to second, ahead of Rocket Star Red, Royal Ruse, Shootist and the rest. Vintage Vinnie scaled the 4-foot-9 third fence in front. Withoutmoreado rapped it, but recovered quickly. Goodoldtimes went to his nose on landing and Blackhall took out a rail.

Neilson loved the way her horse and jockey navigated the race's first few big jumping questions.

DOUGLAS LEES (3)

At the third fence (from top): Royal Ruse leads Shootist; Blackhall outjumps Hill Tie; Withoutmoreado prepares to land ahead of a big-jumping Rocket Star Red.

DOUGLAS LEES (3)

DOUGLAS LEES (2)

Armata Stables' Vintage Vinnie (left) and Goodoldtimes navigate the third. Vintage Vinnie was looking retire the Challenge Cup and make history with a third consecutive win. He was pulled up after the 18th fence. Goodoldtimes lost Colin Smith at the 11th.

"It was tight at the third and I was thinking, 'is he going to sit it?' He sat it," she said. "I could see, going into the fifth it looked like he was relaxed, and I could see Conor's hands. It looked good."

Withoutmoreado made up ground at that fifth fence, way over by the barns and as far from the finish line as horses get on the course, with a long, in-stride leap. After a left turn, the 4-foot-9 sixth comes up quickly. Vintage Vinnie led by 2 lengths (not 32). Withoutmoreado patted the ground and left from a longer spot. Rocket Star Red flattened the fence, but somehow stayed on his feet as the field strung out behind the leading group.

Goodoldtimes lost Colin Smith at the 11th. At the 13th, companion to the third, Vintage Vinnie and Withoutmoreado jumped well up front. Royal Ruse was less fluid. Rocket Star Red fell. Vintage Vinnie led by 4 lengths at the 14th, where Withoutmoreado chipped in without losing momentum. He flew the 15th and gained on Vintage Vinnie at the 16th, a 4-foot-10 uphill demon which sent Blackhall to the ground. Withoutmoreado chipped in at 17 as Royal Ruse closed the gap from third with a big leap. At 18, Vintage Vinnie and Withoutmoreado jumped as a team – one finding his best stride, the other finally showing a weakness. The two-time Hunt Cup winner landed flat-footed, got passed for the first time in 11 miles over the course and offered no response. He and Shootist pulled up before the 19th.

Withoutmoreado led over the 20th, across Tufton Avenue, over the tricky 21st with its lean and its brook on the landing side and led Royal Ruse by 2 lengths up the hill toward the last. Ears pricked, Withoutmoreado lengthened stride, jumped higher than he needed to and kicked away. Royal Ruse stayed on, but was no match.

Among the crowd, Naylor and his wife Diane watched it unfold – and were overjoyed.

"When Irv and I first got married, the only thing I heard about was the Maryland Hunt Cup," said Diane. "He'd say, 'That's my dream. I want to win the Maryland Hunt Cup.' He rode in it, he won it twice before this year and I've never seen the man so happy. Irv admires the race; it's a significant accomplishment for the horses and the riders. This Hunt Cup win feels as good as the first."

While riding Hunt Cup hopeful Emerald Action (Ire) at the Grand National in 1999, Naylor was paralyzed in a fall. He watches his far-reaching stable from a motorized wheelchair now, but is every bit as involved, interested and invested. Since the accident, the horses have won three Hunt Cups, three Eclipse Awards, six NSA owners' championships and put Naylor within reach of the career earnings record held by Augustin Stable.

The Tuesday before the Hunt Cup, Naylor went to the hospital with an upper respiratory infection. By Thursday, he was home. Saturday, he was at the race.

"People ask us for advice sometimes – don't' give up, obviously," Diane said. "The Hunt Cup is Irv's dream; it matters to him. You've got to have a dream."

Neilson, who trained 2002 winner Young Dubliner (Ire), would have been happy with a lesser performance.

"I was worried about the height of the fences," she said. "He'd never been there. Was I surprised? Yes. As the race went on, I was so excited he was jumping as well as he was and if he got around clear, finished, we'd be ready for next year. It would be great to have a horse improving like that, but he kept doing it."

In the stirrups, Tierney felt the same thing and paid some credit to the third fence.

"He got in a bit tight, but I'm happy he did it now because he learned how much he has to respect the fences," said the 19-year-old. "I think that helped him early in the race. It told him to back off and jump them as they come."

The plan would have been simple going in – follow Vintage Vinnie. Tierney did that, but also tried not to put his horse under pressure. Experience matters in the Hunt Cup. Vintage Vinnie had it. Withoutmoreado did not.

"We thought Vintage Vinnie would do what he did the last two years and go off clear by a mile," Tierney said. "I couldn't believe how I was traveling. Vintage Vinnie was running and jumping great in front of us and I was really proud of my horse. He's never jumped a fence that big in his life, and I hadn't either."

By the 18th fence, Tierney knew he was traveling better than the leader and let Withoutmoreado pull alongside. The jockey was confident, but worried too.

"I was sort of kicking myself and I was terrified of getting beat because I knew Kathy would be angry with me for going too soon," he said. "But I didn't really have a choice. It's the way the race worked out. I had to go then. I didn't ask him or push him to do that. He just did it."

Tierney grew up in County Wicklow. His father and grandfather (who sold insurance for racehorses) followed racing as fans, but nobody participated. Tierney rode ponies, did some show jumping and dressage, dreamed of being a jockey – without ever acting on it.

"I never really got into it until I was 17 and started riding out for a local stable," he said, and rattled off a list of point-to-point yards who found time to give an eager kid a leg up. "Prunella Dobbs, then Peter Croke, then Harley Dunne."

Neilson reached out to Dunne about an amateur to ride this spring, and he suggested Tierney, whose Irish point-to-point career included all of 11 rides in 2022 and 2023. He'd heard of the Maryland Hunt Cup, but not much else when it came to American jump racing.

> "It's the one race we've heard of back in Ireland. We've heard it's tough, but I didn't realize how tough until I actually got here."
>
> *– Jockey Conor Tierney, on the Maryland Hunt Cup's reputation*

"It's the one race we've all heard of back in Ireland," he said. "We've heard it's tough, but I didn't realize how tough until I actually got here. I thought I'd be happy just to see my name in the race card. To win it, I still can't believe it."

Tierney rode out for Neilson, secured some point-to-point rides, got to know the horses, the people, the courses. He won his first National Steeplechase Association race at Cheshire in March, only to be disqualified for missing a beacon, and came through for real with Fashion Line in the maiden at My Lady's Manor.

The jockey walked the Hunt Cup course six times – it was scary the first time, "just another course" by the last. Withoutmoreado made sure it stayed that way.

"We were taking it week by week and seeing how it would go each week," Tierney said of his experience. "I rode him at Brandywine, at Elkridge and last week at the Grand National just to get to know him a bit more each time. I loved him. He was such a good jumper, a pleasure to ride and definitely my favorite now."

NOTES: Sisters trained the 1-2 finishers. Their father, **Paddy Neilson**, won three as a jockey; their aunt, **Ann Stewart,** won three as a trainer; their grandfather, **Redmond Stewart Jr.,** rode in six; their great-grandfather, **Redmond Stewart Sr.**, rode in 15 including the first in 1894 and won in 1904 . . . Despite the pull-up, **Vintage Vinnie** exited the race in good shape and could aim for another Hunt Cup at 15 next year. "He didn't get the easy lead, for whatever reason, that he did the years before and I think the going was a little tiring for him," said Davies. "The other horses were just better on the day, that's all. He feels great and seems great." ■

A Racing Career

MOONEY LOOKS BACK ON TIME AT DELAWARE PARK, OTHER TRACKS IN REGION

By John Piassek

Racing fans may have noticed that racetracks across North America have named turf courses for notable figures. Saratoga's outer turf course is named for longtime owner/breeder Paul Mellon. Del Mar's turf pays tribute to actor and singer Jimmy Durante, a frequent patron of the California track in its heyday. Louisiana Downs' sod is called the Franks Turf, after John Franks, the leading owner at the track for 18 consecutive years and a major figure in Louisiana racing history.

Delaware Park joined those ranks last October, by dedicating its turf course to John E. Mooney, who retired after nearly 40 years in Mid-Atlantic racing, 25 at Delaware. When Delaware began its 86th live season May 24, racing fans were reminded of Mooney's impact every time they saw a grass race.

Mooney, born in Toronto in 1948 as the oldest of seven children, grew up around the sport. His grandfather, J.D. Mooney, won the 1924 Kentucky Derby aboard Black Gold and is a member of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and the Fair Grounds Hall of Fame. His father, John J. Mooney, was a member of the team which oversaw the creation of Canada's Woodbine Racetrack, which opened in 1956. He was named general manager of the Ontario Jockey Club in 1957 and president from 1971-75. Later, he opened and operated Nashville Stud near Kleinberg, Ontario, and served as president of Laurel Racecourse and Arlington Park. In 1989, the elder Mooney was inducted into the Canadian Thoroughbred Hall of Fame. Mike, one of John E. Mooney's brothers, wrote for various newspapers in Canada and served as publicity director at Hollywood Park from 1993 to 2010. Another brother, Danny, owns and operates Huntington Stud Farm in Kleinberg, Ontario.

"When I was in high school and early college, I'd work in the summertime in the racetracks in Ontario," said Mooney. "At the time, the racing in Canada was being condensed from a number of smaller tracks. You had Woodbine, you had the old Woodbine, which became Greenwood, and you had Fort Erie."

Mooney's first full-time job in racing was as an entry clerk at Woodbine and Greenwood in the late 1960s, and he soon moved on to serve as an official at tracks across Canada. He worked at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg and the now-defunct Blue Bonnets in Montreal.

"The work was seasonal back then," said Mooney, "so I worked as an official whenever there were meetings I could work at."

After working part-time in the United States, as a spotter at the Fasig-Tipton sales and as an assistant at the Harrisburg Standardbred sale among other roles, Mooney came to the United States full-time. He started at Latonia, now Turfway Park, in Kentucky as the assistant to the general manager and the director of operations. He moved to the now-defunct Miles Park in Louisville, and found himself involved in new business opportunities.

"Around 1974, I had an opportunity to buy into a new company providing services for racing called Eye in the Sky, which was a photo-finish company specializing in providing photo-finish services at Thoroughbred tracks." said Mooney. "I was later brought into a company called Photo Trackmaster,

HOOFPRINTS, INC.

John Mooney keeps an eye on the action at Delaware Park last summer.
He spent decades in track management in the region before retiring last year.

specializing in film patrol, photo finish, and timing. That was prior to everything going to video, and once video came around, we jumped right into that."

The company went on to purchase Jones Precision Photo and eventually became the biggest supplier of video services to tracks.

Mooney found it a great learning experience.

"I got to do systems throughout the United States, Canada, and Central America. It was an opportunity to meet many people and get involved in different facets of the industry. We provided services to Thoroughbred tracks, Standardbred tracks, sales companies. We also got involved in doing television coverage from jai alai frontons and Greyhound tracks. I got a lot of contacts and dealt with several different operators, and got fairly well-known within the industry because we did a lot of work with racing commissions.

"The biggest change for me was when we went to video. At the time, television didn't have the same video quality as film.

"Back in those times, it was a much different industry. Tracks were still dependent on large crowds and external sources of revenue, such as concessions, parking, reserved seats and programs. Things have evolved now."

– John Mooney, about returning to Delaware Park in the mid-1980s

It was quite the adjustment, and it involved a whole new learning experience. It was a huge investment because electronics were evolving so rapidly. We also started in black-and-white, and began switching to color."

That experience served him well in 1984, when offered a chance not many racing executives get – to lead a track out of the grave.

Opened in 1937 by William duPont Jr., Delaware Park was one of the premier tracks on the East Coast. Because of its central location and a picturesque atmosphere, fans and horsemen flocked to Delaware every spring and summer. Champions Kelso, Dark Mirage, Susan's Girl, Spectacular Bid and others passed through. In the 1970s, as racing came to Pennsylvania and expanded in New Jersey, Delaware began to get squeezed. The track announced the suspension of operations not long after the 76-day, 1982 season and did not conduct a meet in 1983. The future did not look bright.

Late in 1983, Marylanders Bill Rickman Sr. and Billy Christmas purchased the track. Delaware re-opened as a training center in 1984, with plans for a short meet. At the time, Mooney was working for United Tote, and met Rickman and Christmas when the company installed the tote system at Delaware. They asked Mooney to come aboard as a consultant. He served that role for Delaware's first year, 18 days in the spring and 40 more in the fall, and was offered a permanent position as the general manager in 1985.

"Back in those times, it was a much different industry," said Mooney. "Tracks were still dependent on large crowds and external sources of revenue, such as concessions, parking, reserved seats and programs. Things have evolved now due to simulcasting and the internet."

Mooney's challenge was to lure people back to Delaware after two years off, while restoring the product the track had been known for, without the pillar of off-track bettors.

"When I joined, the facility had been closed for two years, and everything had been stripped out of it. I think a lot of people doubted we'd be successful, so the first year or two was especially tough," Mooney said. "It was also especially difficult in Delaware because the harness racing people were very strong at the time, and frankly, I don't think they wanted to see Delaware Park come back. We had to work with the legislature and get some of the excessive costs reduced, such as takeout, and fees to the state, and we were successful."

Delaware's season slowly grew, from 99 dates in 1985 to 150 by 1990. Average handle went up from $522,185 in 1985 to $548,266 in 1990. Simulcasting became a part of the track's operations in 1986.

"I felt it would be a big advantage for Delaware to have simulcasting," said Mooney. "We started by simulcasting in stakes races, to try and upgrade the quality of product we were offering. In those days, we had our own pools for those races. There was a lot of opposition from the other tracks; they felt we shouldn't be doing it. However, we kept it at 25 races or so for the first few years, so we were allowed to do it.

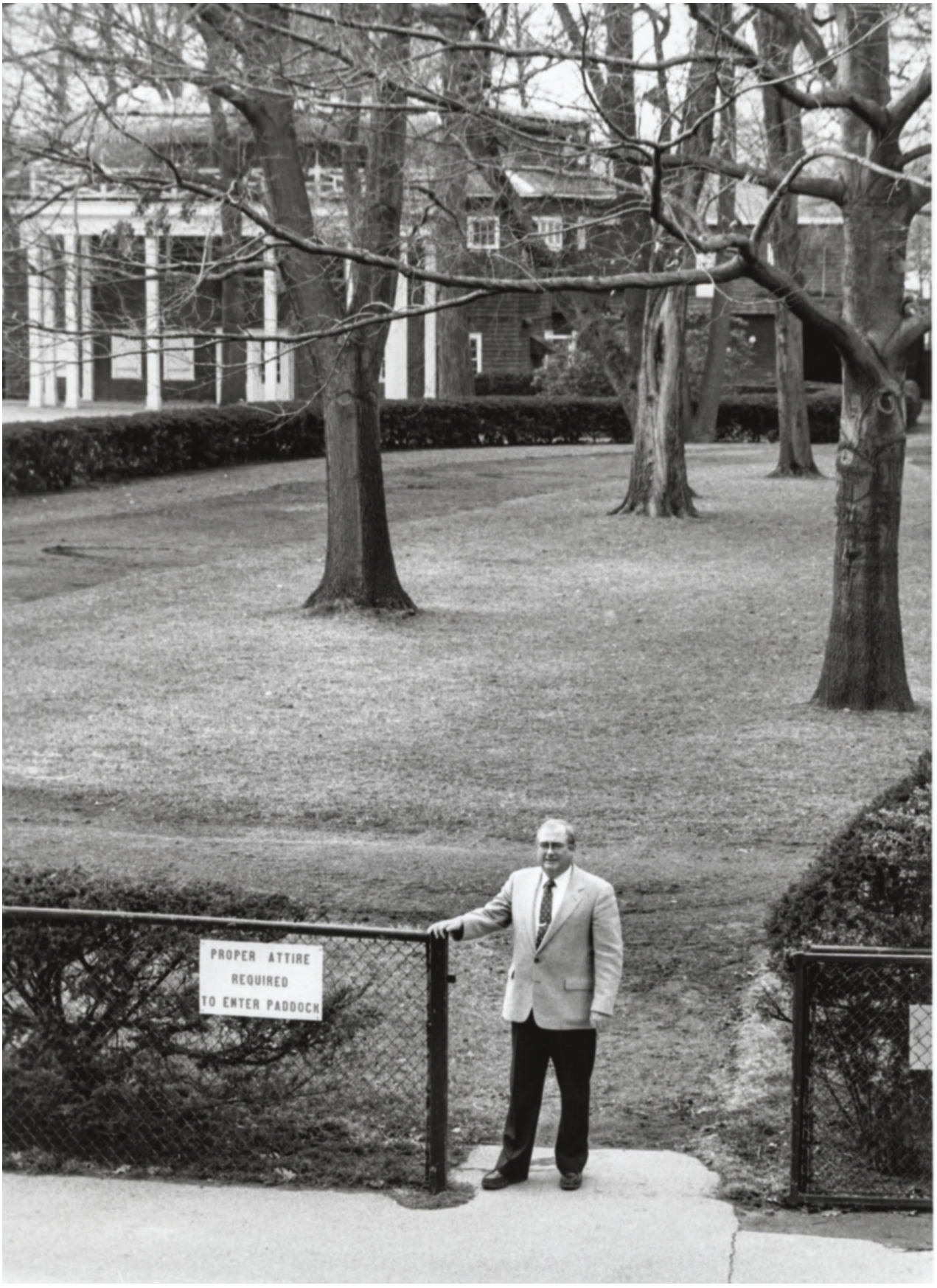
"We opened part of our facility in the first-floor clubhouse just for year-round simulcasting. It was a big undertaking because we were a facility designed for summertime only, so we didn't have heating or anything like that."

Simulcasting soon grew further, and by the mid-1990s, Delaware was able to offer simulcasting on tracks across the country.

In 1986, the Delaware Handicap returned after being run at Saratoga Race Course the previous three years to ensure the 1¼-mile race's continuation. A clause in the agreement with the New York Racing Association made the return possible and Mooney made sure it happened.

"Lenny Hale, who was a dear friend of mine, was the director of racing in New York at the time," said Mooney. "I explained to him what I understood the agreement to be and asked if we could arrange to have the race brought back to Delaware, which he did for me."

John Mooney (here in 1991) was a fixture in Delaware Park's iconic paddock.



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"Back then, a lot of people didn't think Delaware Park could make it. They thought they'd run one or two years and then stop."

– Chris Sobocinski, on John Mooney's work on the rebirth of Delaware racing

Through a connection with Dr. Sam Harrison, then head of the Arabian Jockey Club, Delaware also began to incorporate Arabian racing in 1986.

"We made an arrangement with them, and they put all the stakes money up," said Mooney. "In our first year, we had a program for Arabians that was just outstanding. It was far more money than what we had to give to Thoroughbreds. The Arabian people at that time were a large group from coast to coast, and they'd schedule all these races on the weekends. People would fly in, and we'd have large contingents pretty much every weekend. It really boosted our profile and brought some pretty prominent people into the business. We also brought back steeplechase racing, so we were drawing people from three different equine disciplines."

Exotic wagering also came to Delaware in the late 1980s.

"We had the twin trifecta, then we added the pick five, with a carryover, and those pools became huge. We had gamblers flying in from California, all over the country, to play that pool. It really helped us."

Just weeks after its introduction in 1985, the twin trifecta jackpot hit $700,000, and exceeded $100,000 25 times between 1985 and 1986. Delaware also introduced the pick three, then known as the Win Three, in the late 1980s, which also proved popular. Mooney also credits Delaware's dedicated workforce with sparking the revival.

"A lot of people had worked there for a long time, and they were anxious to get back to work," he said. "To have a staff like that that was really supportive of the track and the racing, that carried over to the customer. When we didn't have a lot of money for marketing, word of mouth went a long way."

Coupled with reduced admission prices and a variety of concerts and promotional days, Delaware again became a racing destination.

In a 1991 profile in *Maryland Horse*, Mooney noted the importance of creating an atmosphere that appealed to all racegoers: "There are so many entertainment options for the entire family that the attraction for going to the races has been lost, but if we can provide events for every age group in the family and if we can make the family comfortable and happy to be at Delaware Park on the weekend, then we're going to succeed and get the people in here."

Chris Sobocinski grew up in the area and is now the racing information coordinator at Delaware after starting as a mutuel clerk in 1986. He advanced to morning-line maker in 1993, and has held several roles since.

"The way John and the Rickman family found ways to keep Delaware Park racing relevant and competitive in that environment, when there was a lot of competition, it was a tough marketplace. The way he kept everything together through some of those years is probably the thing I admire the most about him," Sobocinski said. "Back then, a lot of people didn't think Delaware Park could make it. They thought they'd run one or two years and then stop."

In August 1993, Mooney's career detoured to a job as the Maryland Jockey Club's general manager.

"I had become close with Frank De Francis, and I really admired what he had done with Laurel. The opportunity came up when he wanted me to come to Maryland. At the time, I was really working to get the approval of slots at Delaware, so I didn't take him up on his offer. After Frank passed (in 1989), and his son Joe once again extended the offer, this time I decided to take him up on it. I wanted to have the real experience of prestigious races. Of course, we had the Preakness, and we still had the Washington, D.C., International, so I thought it was worthwhile to make the move."

In the *Baltimore Sun*, Joe De Francis described Mooney as "the catalyst who can build and complete a winning management team."

Mooney described his time in Maryland as "quite a challenge, but very, very exciting. Maryland had a tremendous

program already in place, Jim Mango already had an itinerary in place for how we ran the Preakness. It was quite interesting, and a very, very big operation."

Not long after Mooney came aboard, he found himself involved in another new challenge. Rumblings of pari-mutuel wagering in Virginia had been growing in the early 1990s, and the idea was becoming more real by the time Mooney joined the MJC.

"The principals of the MJC felt very strongly that we needed to be a part of that if we were going to survive," Mooney said. "I was appointed as the CEO of a company we started called the Maryland-Virginia Racing Circuit, and spent a long time lobbying to put the track in Loudoun [County, in Northern Virginia]. We won the license, but about a year later, without anyone's notice, the county executives decided to have another vote on the racetrack, and we lost the license. That led to us looking elsewhere, and we wound up getting the property in New Kent. I became responsible for overseeing the building and the operation of Colonial Downs."

Colonial opened in September 1997 as a facility for Thoroughbred (with an emphasis on turf) and Standardbred racing.

"The original design called for the turf track being on the outside, with a tunnel for harness racing and a training track on the inside," Mooney said. "It became cost-prohibitive, so out of that, we built a 1¼-mile main track, and had a giant turf track inside of it. It worked fine, but it wasn't ideal for harness, because we wound up with a one-mile, one-turn harness track, where they'd start on the backstretch and have an eighth of a mile head start."

Harness racing never really caught on, but the Thoroughbred meet began to carve out its place thanks to its turf-heavy program. The Virginia Derby, introduced in 1998, became the premier 3-year-old turf race in the country, reaching a purse of $1 million in 2006 and 2007. The Colonial Turf Cup was inaugurated in 2005, and also reached sky-high purse levels.

"Our biggest initiative at Colonial was trying to increase our distribution across the state," said Mooney. "We built 10 off-track betting parlors, and some were quite successful. The off-track betting carried us for a while because we were limited to very few racing days (during Mooney's tenure, Colonial peaked at 42 Thoroughbred days in 2006), so having those signals is what supplied our purse money. We also got a bill through the legislature saying no outside off-track betting companies could come in unless they went through us, so the horsemen got a share of every dollar wagered in Virginia. That helped tremendously."

John Mooney and Bessie Gruwell, executive director of Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, were in the paddock for a 2010 Delaware certified stakes race.

Following a decade in Virginia, Mooney returned to Delaware in 2008 as the executive director of racing.

"I was asked if I would come up there on a consulting basis. After awhile, they asked me to come back to a full-time position."

Over the prior decade, thanks to the arrival of slots in 1996 and the increased simulcast market, Delaware's purses and handle had soared. Average purses per race reached a record $32,506 in 2002, with the Delaware Handicap, run for $100,000 during most of Mooney's first tenure, reaching $1 million in 2005. After considering a $1 million handle day a wild success, Delaware reached $2 million with regularity on Mondays and Tuesdays. However, with the proliferation of slots in other states and the reduction in the horse population, Delaware soon began feeling the crunch.

"We were facing a tremendous amount of competition in the Mid-Atlantic, and we started really hurting for horses." said Mooney. "Some days, we were only able to fill a few

A Racing Career

Racetrack executive John Mooney spent more than 30 years working in Thoroughbred racing, much of it in the region. Highlights include:

Delaware Park: Hired as consultant (while with United Tote) when track was purchased by new owners in 1984. Became full-time general manager in 1985.

Maryland Jockey Club: Hired as general manager in 1993. Oversaw operations including Preakness, Washington, D.C., International, etc.

Colonial Downs: Made CEO of Maryland-Virginia Racing Circuit, company created by MJC to manage Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing at Colonial Downs when track opened in 1997.

Delaware Park: Hired as executive director of racing in 2008 after working as consultant. Retired in 2022.

races. We had to change the structure and readjust our days. We had gotten up to 150 days, and after some renegotiation, we worked our way down to an amount where we could give them a reasonable purse structure and attract stables back to Delaware."

Mooney called Delaware's purse structure especially important. Unlike some competitors, Delaware is not part of a year-round circuit, which means horsemen have to be lured, sometimes from hundreds of miles away.

"There has to be some kind of structure where the owner could possibly see a break-even or a plus at the end," he said. "I had to remind the horsemen's association, 90 percent of everyone is coming from well out of town, so the purses must be strong. When you ask an owner or trainer to ship from, say, Louisiana, you must have a structure where they're going to make some money, or they're not coming back."

Mooney was hands-on in getting horsemen to come to Delaware, ensuring the condition book was out early and canvassing tracks to get horsemen to come.

"We'd pick out tracks and stables that we thought were a good fit, and we'd go out on the road and go after them. If that meant going to Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Florida, that's what we did. We always hoped to have around 1,200 horses on the backstretch, and most of the time, we'd have around that."

Mooney takes pride in Delaware's backstretch and racing surface.

"This is one of the finest facilities in the country to train a horse at. It's got a marvelous stabling area; we've got a great main track. From that standpoint, it's very attractive to horsemen. The stabling costs are also a lot less."

Mooney also mentioned the Delaware-certified program, created in 2002 to enable horses who stay on a Delaware farm for 90 days prior to Dec. 31 of their yearling years to collect bonus money. During Mooney's second tenure, Delaware played host to more big names, including the showdown between Blind Luck and Havre de Grace in the 2011 Delaware Handicap-G2. The fillies, who had met in the 2010 Delaware Oaks-G2, dueled the length of the stretch, with Blind Luck prevailing by a nose. Mooney called the race a favorite Delaware moment along with visits by champions Royal Delta and Songbird, plus multiple Grade 1 winners Life At Ten and Elate.

Business at Delaware has bounced back. Races increased from 602 in 2014 to 702 in 2022. The average purse per race last year was $31,899, up 34.6 percent from the decade-low of $23,695 in 2017. The 2022 meet saw a total handle of $142,286,909, a 42.37 percent jump over 2019.

Last July 26, the track announced that Mooney would step down, effective Aug. 1. He had planned to retire at the end of 2021, and told the track that he would stay on for part of 2022. Jerome "Jed" Doro, who worked for Mooney in Virginia and Delaware, takes over the role.

"John's been involved in my career for more than 20 years," said Doro. "I started at Laurel as the voice of the results line. After two or three months, a spot opened in the race office in Virginia, and he gave me a shot."

Doro worked in the racing office in Maryland and Virginia before following Mooney to Delaware in 2008.

"They're big shoes to fill," said Doro. "My goal is to continue the positive things he had going here. I'm trying to not take much away from what he did; I'm trying to continue what he showed me and keep that positivity going."

Doro has been the racing secretary at Delaware since 2010, except for a brief detour to Oaklawn Park in 2019 and 2020, and will keep that role. Mooney's guidance will be missed.

"When you had a question, there was a very good chance he had dealt with something like that," Doro said. "He knew what you were dealing with and could help and assist you in so many ways that were very beneficial. I was lucky to have him as my boss. I couldn't have asked for a better person to learn from and observe."

Sobocinski agreed.

"As someone who grew up in the area and loved going to Delaware Park, I was aware of John early on because of his role in bringing the track back," said Sobocinski. "There were a lot of people rooting for the track to succeed after it closed for that year. As a fan, I admired him for the way he found a way to keep the track going, and for bringing it back up to where it had to be. When I was a mutuel clerk, I admired him for giving me a job and giving a boost to the Delaware economy. I've had different ways of appreciating him, but over the past 15 years, I really got to know him and the substance behind his work."

Mooney appreciated the role played by the team at Delaware.

"He hired good people, and he trusted those people to do the work," Sobocinski said. "He recognized good talent, trusted the people he brought in do the job they had to do."

Mooney and his wife of 49 years, Andrea, live in northeast Maryland and keep a boat in a Chesapeake Bay marina. He's still with the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, of which he's been the chairman for the past 20 years, and has been to the races, including Delaware, numerous times.

"Frankly, I love the Mid-Atlantic, and the main reason is the people," said Mooney. "In my opinion, this region has some of the best horsemen and horse families in the whole country. They have a tremendous history, with people who are living every day for the horse only. I've met wonderful people here, I've raised my two daughters here, so for me, this is home."

So is the racetrack.

"Not long after my retirement, I went to Pimlico," said Mooney, "because a friend of mine had a horse running and asked me to take him down there. We were enjoying a lovely afternoon, and a prominent trainer walked by and said, 'What are you doing here? You're supposed to be retired.' "

Mooney also visited Saratoga last summer and looks forward to some time at Delaware Park this summer.

"I enjoy racing and going to the track very much," he said. "Going to Delaware has a different feeling when you realize you're a spectator and not part of the operation." ■

Renewal

Spring is an invigorating time of year. Newborn foals and budding 2-year-olds provide renewed optimism for the year. With all the effort, time and expense you put into developing your upcoming sales and/or racing product, why not develop a plan to manage risk?

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— Health Notes —

BY JEN ROYTZ

Be Prepared

SPRING, SUMMER BRING EXTRA ATTENTION TO SALES YEARLINGS

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Go to any North American Thoroughbred yearling auction and the routine is more or less the same. Roughly every two minutes another horse is led into the ring as the buying public decides the commercial value and the trajectory of the horse's life and career. As that cycle continues for hundreds, or even thousands, of horses, it is easy to overlook all it took to get there.

With so many options, horses are often culled from buyers' short lists due to minor imperfections or shortcomings. That is why having each horse present itself as well as possible is crucial.

Over the past several decades, advancements in diagnostics, technology and the understanding of equine anatomy and physiology have allowed horsemen to identify issues (or potential issues) earlier and find a variety of approaches for treatment. From acupuncture for suboptimal throats and cryptorchidism to chiropractic care for asymmetrical gaits or soreness, taking a proactive approach to identifying and treating common imperfections in yearlings can be the difference in tens of thousands of dollars (or more) in the sales ring.

Identifying Issues Early

Horses being pointed toward the commercial market typically undergo a greater level of scrutiny than those bred to race. Mid-Atlantic consignor Chris Gracie, who rode as a steeplechase jockey and worked at Eaton Sales, Ashford Stud and Nursery Place Farm while attending college at the University of Kentucky, is a proponent of doing diagnostics early to identify underlying issues with horses pointed to the sales.

"It is important to assess horses early if you're considering pointing them to the yearling sales. We do scopes and X-rays on everything on the farm early in the spring and then make our plans from there."

– Donnie Snellings, Denali Stud

"If you are breeding and raising horses for the commercial market, you start planning from day one," said Gracie. "We try not to leave any stone unturned."

Gracie pointed to angular limb deformities as the most common of imperfections to identify early and correct. Addressing conformational flaws can improve a horse's chances at auction and help with lifelong soundness.

"One of the easiest and most effective things you can do is farrier work from an early age to incrementally improve them, which will not only make them more appealing to buyers at the sale, but will keep them sounder long term," said Gracie. "We look at them with our farrier every four weeks from when they're foals up to and through when they go to the sale. I have seen a lot of horses over the years [at the sales, races or elsewhere] that could have been really nice, but someone let their feet go and it ruined the horse."

While most sale yearlings have a full set of radiographs taken in the days leading up to the sale, many consignors X-ray and scope potential sale horses as weanlings or early in their yearling years.

"It is important to assess horses early if you're considering pointing them to the yearling sales," said Donnie Snellings, yearling and sales manager at Denali Stud in Paris, Ky. "We do scopes and X-rays on everything on the farm early in the spring and then make our plans from there."

Born and raised in northern Virginia, Snellings grew up riding horses before coming to Kentucky to work alongside his father at Spendthrift Farm. Since leaving Spendthrift in 1986, Snellings managed the yearling drafts of Strodes Creek Stud and Mill Ridge Farm before taking on his current role overseeing yearling preparation and sales with Denali in 2009. He was honored as the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers Club Farm Manager of the Year in 2018.

"Our sales horses fall under a higher level of scrutiny than those bypassing the sales [to race for their owners]," said Snellings.

Snellings and Gracie say initial radiographic and scope findings, along with regular visual inspections, help formulate an initial exercise and nutrition plan specific to each horse, as well as what issues may need to be addressed. Both quickly pointed out, however, that most horses will need incremental adjustments to diet, exercise and/or therapy plans throughout the yearling prep season based on how their weight, soundness or demeanor evolves.

Common Issues with Yearlings and How to Address Them

One of the key areas of scrutiny for many commercial buyers is a yearling's upper airway, especially the epiglottis, soft palate and the arytenoid cartilage that opens and closes the airway. While each sale company includes parameters in its conditions of sale as to what constitutes an acceptable airway on a yearling, just because an airway is imperfect on an initial endoscopic exam doesn't mean it can't be improved upon if given time and treatment.

"For those horses that have inflammation or need to be treated, we will use the nebulizer and treat with antibiotics, then rescope them to see if it improves their function," said Snellings. "If it's not improved, or if on that initial scope we have a 2B [graded] or so throat with no inflammation, we will go to acupuncture to see if we can improve that."

Acupuncture has been used by consignors for years to improve throat function in young horses. Dr. Rhonda Rathgeber, a veterinarian with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington, Ky., who also holds a PhD in equine anatomy and locomotion, consults on suboptimal throats in young horses for Snellings and many other consignors.

"Throat issues in yearlings are often immaturity-related," she said, "and I would say you can often improve the throats a grade or more with acupuncture."

Snellings typically rescopes yearlings seven to 10 days prior to their arrival at the sale grounds to see if they need to

Chiropractic treatment can help yearlings deal with growth spurts and conformation changes.

be treated again with antibiotics or a nebulizer, then has the video endoscopy available in the repository performed once the horse is at the sale.

A horse's temperament can play a significant role in the scoping, as nervous horses or those otherwise worked up can have pharyngeal or laryngeal spasms, which can cause a narrowing of the oral pharynx and displacement of the soft palate. Therefore, when taking the video endoscopy for the repository, many veterinarians prefer to do it with as little restraint as possible. Restraints such as a lip chain or lip twitch can cause the horse to tense or hold its head differently, which can affect the way the throat behaves during the exam.

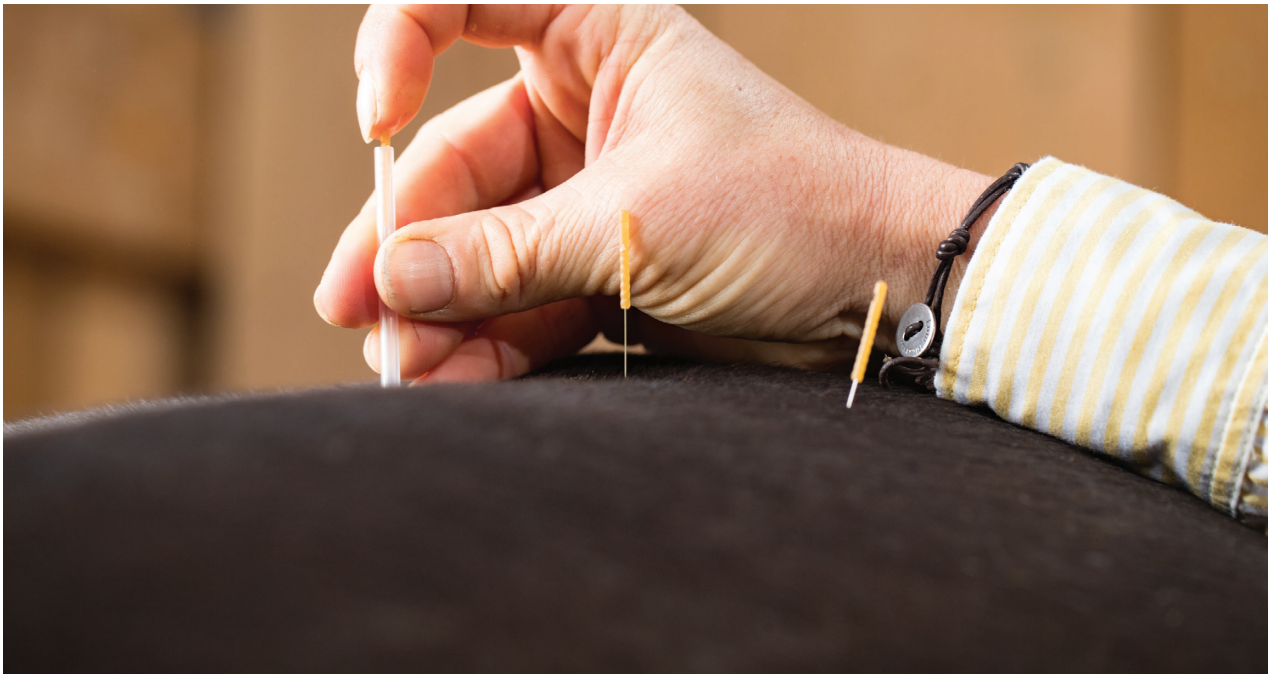
In addition to improving the functionality of throats, Rathgeber says acupuncture can be utilized for several other common issues in yearlings, including undescended testicles, nerve paralysis, roached or sore backs and eye ulcers.

"[Acupuncture] is quite effective when used on cryptorchids. I would say we have roughly an 85-percent success rate with the yearling cryptorchids we treat," said Rathgeber. "Back issues are often very responsive to acupuncture. For those who are very back sore or are developing a roached back, I would treat more aggressively and possibly incorporate physiotherapy and/or mesotherapy."

In addition to acupuncture, Snellings employs other therapeutic approaches for horses during sales prep.

"I am a big believer in chiropractic work. Horses grow a lot between their weanling and yearling year, which in and of itself can cause some soreness," he said. "Once they start having an increase in their exercise routine and diet during prepping season, it can be extremely beneficial in helping their bodies adapt to the increased workload."

Equine chiropractic practitioner Dr. Larkspur Carroll works on Thoroughbreds and sport horses, but spends much of her time in the summer and fall months working on yearlings being prepared for public auction. The Maryland native and lifelong equestrian who still rides a handful of horses at the track each morning and competes in eventing



Acupuncture is another treatment that can help prepare yearlings.

utilizes a combination of chiropractic, laser and PEMF (Pulse Electromagnetic Field) therapy to treat common issues in yearlings during sales-prep season.

"This time of year I see a lot of yearlings getting sore in their sacroiliac and pelvis because of how they grow – their back end grows first and overloads their front end," said Carroll. "Add to that how much young horses – colts especially – roughhouse and play outside this time of year, often getting back and neck pain as a result. If they are prepped with some of these underlying issues, you have layers of muscle developing on an asymmetric or compensated skeleton, which can evolve into issues with soundness or soreness."

Carroll says she typically sees an average sale yearling under her care every four to eight weeks and tries to plan adjustments around changes in routine, such as when the workload ramps up. For those with more significant patterns of asymmetry, she may adjust them as often as every two or three weeks.

"This time of year is when horses who need it get OCD or chip-removal surgeries. They're on post-op stall rest for a certain amount of time, then hand-walked, then on limited turnout. All that after being hoisted onto a table," said Carroll. "For horses going through that during a key growth phase, there is a lot to adjust."

Physitis, or inflammation of the growth plates, is something many yearling managers deal with as spring turns to summer. Snellings and Carroll both have seen positive results when combining icing and adjustments to exercise and feed routines with Class IV laser therapy.

"Yearlings, more so fillies than colts, getting physitis in their knees is common when the spring grass comes in. Just about every single one you see like that is offset in the knees, so we treat those horses that are offset differently," said Snellings. "Ice and laser therapy can really help those, but you also have to limit their grass intake and limit their activity. So, you put them in a paddock rather than a field, walk them rather than jogging, muzzle them for part or all of the day or reduce their turnout time."

Carroll and Snellings have also treated sesamoiditis and splints with laser therapy, while also adjusting exercise routines from traditional hand walking or jogging on an electric walker to swimming.

"If I have horses that need more exercise but have issues they're working through physically, such as heavier fillies with physitis or horses with sesamoiditis, I will swim them two to three times a week for a few weeks rather than walking or jogging," said Snellings. "We really see nice results after eight to 10 sessions at the pool."

While the majority of a horse's preparation takes place before the sale, Carroll says she stays busy at the sales, providing supportive chiropractic care to horses being shown repeatedly.

"The physical demands at a sale, especially in popular books or for horses that have traveled long distances, are sig-

Top PEMF treatment, laser therapy

nificant. Their workload is pretty intense leading up to the sale, then at the sale they are showing constantly for three or four days," said Carroll. "They're walking and turning right, walking and turning right, walking and turning right, then being put right back in the stall. Their right hip is screaming because they've turned on it up to 200 times or more."

Carroll says some consignors also choose to use massage therapy in conjunction with chiropractic work and other therapies to support yearlings as they carry not only the increased physical demands of sales prep with the natural growth they undergo during this stage of life.

"Different prepping approaches can create change in a horse's body shape very rapidly as they ramp up their workload," said Carroll. "My clients use chiropractic work as a sentinel to understand how yearlings are handling the prepping process before their bodies show soreness or adverse presentations from prepping."

If you could offer one piece of advice...

When asked what advice they would give to anyone raising and preparing horses for the yearling auctions, all of our sources offered a different version of the same thing: be proactive early to know what imperfections each horse has, then work with your consignor, veterinarian and farrier to formulate a plan.

"I think the biggest thing people can do is to start earlier when it comes to evaluating their yearlings for treatable issues," said Rathgeber. "Evaluate, scope and X-ray the horses in the spring or early summer, and if you have an issue, such as a throat, that could benefit from a treatment modality, call and have it evaluated. Horses need time to respond to the therapy, so calling two days before it ships to the sale won't do nearly as much as if you give the horse the appropriate time for treatments. And, for some things, the more mature they get, the less can be fixed."

Gracie also advises farms that raise and sell yearlings on a smaller scale and do not consign under their banner to retain a skilled advisor to offer an impartial, market-based perspective.

"For smaller breeders, I would suggest working with a consignor or advisor who is able to come to the farm regularly to inspect the horses and help you navigate what each one needs, as well as what sale they would be best suited to," said Gracie. "People who work a lot of sales know what types of buyers tend to like different types of horses, and what sales those buyers typically attend, so it's important to work with someone who knows that." ■

The Steeplechase Times

GRAND NATIONAL RACES

Teaming Up

TUSCANY PARTNERS ENJOYING SUCCESS WITH MONBEG STREAM

By Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs by Douglas Lees*

When Monbeg Stream (Ire) ran away with a maiden timber race at My Lady's Manor last year, former amateur timber jockey Dyson Dryden made sure to congratulate owner and childhood friend John Greene on the performance.

"You have an unbelievable horse," Dryden said.

"You think so?" Greene replied.

"No," Dryden said. "I know so."

Greene and Dryden met in kindergarten at Calvert School in Baltimore, kept in touch off and on and used that 2022 reunion for the start of something new. Greene said they should team up and own horses together. Dryden, who rode timber races in the 1990s and then again in the mid-2000s, thought it over (for about a minute) and asked a simple question.

"Is Monbeg in the partnership or not?"

He was. They called the stable Tuscany Racing (for Tuscany Road, where Calvert is), added Stolen Shoes (GB) to the fold this year and jumped off to a quick start to 2023. Stolen Shoes won at the Brandywine Point-to-Point and added a maiden timber race at the Manor April 15. Monbeg Stream, whose 2022 season included an allowance timber win at the Iroquois for Greene, handled six rivals in the $30,000 Grand National timber stakes at Butler, Md. April 22 to become a stakes winner.

Trained by Leslie Young, the 7-year-old Libertarian (GB) gelding jumped up front with Renegade River early, recovered from making a mess of the fifth fence to take the lead after the sixth and then galloped everybody into submission while keeping a fast tempo on firm turf.

Renegade River made a race of it over the final two fences, but Monbeg Stream saw out a 2½-length win with Shootist third after a course record 5:43.80 for 3¼ miles.

"That's just inexperience," jockey Freddie Procter said of the mistake at the fifth. "It's his first run back over timber this year after he missed the fall. That was just greenness. After he woke himself up there, he was very good at it. He's completely changed up from last year. He strengthened up. He's an old-fashioned chasing type who keeps maturing. You might even see more from him next year."

Dryden works in finance now and has two daughters with his wife Anna (McKnight) Dryden, who competes in the upper levels of show jumping, and can trace his interest in steeplechasing to his family's move to Monkton, Md., when he was in middle school.

"I was 12 and we moved to a farm next to Polly Riggs, where Jack Fisher trained his horses," Dryden said. "I looked out the front window and saw Jack schooling horses over hurdles and said I wanted to do that. I had never ridden."

By 15, he was working for Hall of Fame trainer Mikey Smithwick and went from "picking up rocks and sticks" to riding multiple horses a day and learning as much as he could. Dryden teamed up with the Smithwick-trained Gibson Island to win a maiden timber (over Fisher) at Willowdale in 1993,

Monbeg Stream flies the the last fence of the Grand National timber stakes, and meets his people in the winner's circle.

collected a few point-to-point wins and competed in the various iterations of foxhunter and owner/rider timber races with Ann Stewart, Paddy Neilson and other trainers through 2009.

Owning racehorses doesn't compare to riding them, too much.

"When you have a horse in a race there's a little nerve," Dryden said. "It's not like riding, but there's a little bit of adrenaline and an endorphin hit. I just wish I had the horses I have now then. It's been really fun to get back into racing. I've followed it, but having more connectivity is nice again."

Dryden sees partnerships like his with Greene – and beyond – as a way to attract ownership and participation.

"Getting more people into the sport is critical," Dryden said. "It's not that big, and it's always going to be a niche, but it can grow. Syndicates are going to be the future. The cost of entry is so high. We've got to make it easier and less prohibitive financially. You don't have to own much of a horse to get the thrill out of it."

Maryland-bred Bogey's Image leads a crowd early in the maiden timber.

Davies, Poretz win two together

Trainer Joe Davies dealt with the literal ups and downs of jump racing when his son (and chief jockey) Teddy suffered a broken collarbone in a fall with Our Friend (Ire) in the first race, but won the next two with jockey Eric Poretz.

Bogey's Image started the double in the $12,500 maiden timber for Dan Colhoun, Achsah O'Donovan and Harvey Goolsby. The Maryland-bred set the pace, got a boost when Hero's Return fell coming out of the final turn and drew off late to score by 4 lengths over The Butler Yates (Ire) with Rhythmia third.

A 6-year-old half-brother (by Imagining) to My Lady's Manor winner Master Seville, Bogey's Image made his racing debut over hurdles as a 3-year-old in 2020, won and placed in a minor stakes over hurdles in 2021 but was purchased as a timber prospect. Bred by South Branch Equine, he came into the race off point-to-point wins at Green Spring Valley and Elkridge-Harford and put that experience to good use.

"Last year I talked the owners into running him over timber a little sooner than some horses," said Davies. "He hadn't quite reached his level of mediocrity over hurdles. I was anxious to get him over timber. His type is perfect for it, but he's very backward and there's a lot of greenness still. Last year he was very unsettled here and it didn't go well. He's hunted a little bit, he's matured and he's got a little bit of a motor."

After a lengthy delay to wait out a thunderstorm, which softened the course and produced a slower pace, Davies and Poretz teamed up again when Great Road scored in the $17,500 Benjamin Murray Memorial allowance timber. Kinross Farm's 8-year-old let Hill Tie set a comfortable early pace in the rain before yielding to Great Road about midway through the 3¼ miles. Entrymate Blackhall (Ire) challenged over the final three fences, but Great Road held on to win by a half-length. Rocket Star Red was third.

Davies liked the performance of his pair, each on a path toward bigger timber opportunities. Great Road's trip meandered. Bred in West Virginia by Bybee Road Corporation, the son of Three Chopt Road won once in 18 flat starts at Charles Town before being claimed as a steeplechase prospect in 2018. Second and third twice each in 2021 and 2022, the 8-year-old handled the conditions at the Grand National while continuing to build his resume.

"A little slower pace can be a good thing, it really helps," said Davies. "That was a really nice race for all of those horses."

Trainer Ricky Hendriks kept it pretty simple when discussing tactics with Virginia Korrell before Chosen Mate (Ire) competed in the finale, the $10,000 Western Run Plate for apprentice jockeys.

"Ricky said to jump him off in front and that he would get brave when they came to him," said Korrell. "And he did."

In a rainy Benjamin Murray Memorial, Hill Tie (left) and Great Road touch down in front of Blackhall and Rocket Star Red.

Owned by Armata Stable, Chosen Mate shrugged off all challenges. The 10-year-old won by 2 lengths over Fletched with Rakhaa (GB) third in the 3-mile test. Chosen Mate won twice over hurdles and twice more over chase fences in England and Ireland, before coming to the United States with Irish trainer Gordon Elliott for the 2021 American Grand National-G1 hurdle stakes at Far Hills. Beaten double digits when fourth behind champion The Mean Queen (Ire) there, he followed up with two more sub-par hurdle starts that autumn and was converted to timber for 2022. He lost six times – a fall at the Iroquois and five distant defeats – before winning his 2023 debut at Cheshire in March. He backed up that performance with another score in the Western Run.

The winner had one anxious moment when he hit the third-last fence, breaking a post and sending the rails to the ground. Not that it fazed him.

"He has a tendency to get pretty long to them and when we started really running he got even longer," said Korrell. "He just hit the top rail, but he broke the post and knocked it all down."

Korrell, whose parents Brian and Elizabeth Korrell rode jump races, won her second National Steeplechase Association race and appreciated the opportunity.

"I called Ricky Tuesday morning because I didn't have a ride in the race," said the 24-year-old, who rides out for trainer Leslie Young in the morning. "I left a message, and he called right back. I went over and schooled him on Thursday, and it was good to get a feel for him. He's a classy old horse who ran really well." ■

Virginia Korrell and Chosen Mate return after winning the Western Run Plate timber for apprentice jockeys.

The Steeplechase Times

MY LADY'S MANOR RACES

Sweet Music

TOMGARROW REPEATS IN TIMBER STAKES FOR LEIPER'S FORK

By Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs by Douglas Lees*

Historic Leiper's Fork in Tennessee – population 650 – hosts the Hillbilly Half Marathon, model airplane competitions, music festivals and the annual "almost famous" Christmas parade. The village's namesake Thoroughbred ownership group is well on its way to a spot on the Wikipedia page, too, with 21 wins since launching in 2019.

Tomgarrow's co-owner Mark George (left) accepts the My Lady's Manor trophy from Leigh Brent of sponsor Maury, Donnelly and Parr Insurance.

The quartet of Mark and LaDonna McMillan and Mark and Melinda George started Leiper's Fork Steeplechasers after attending the Iroquois Steeplechase for years and lamenting a lack of local horses representing the area just outside the town of Franklin south of Nashville. The McMillans live in Leiper's Fork, where he owns a heavy construction business. His sister Melinda and her husband Mark George, in the logistics business, live in Memphis.

"We go to the Iroquois every year, we're connected to it and interested in seeing the sport continuing and growing a little bit if it can," said McMillan, who foxhunts and rode some jump races in the 1970s. "Owning horses was a bucket-list thing and we'd talk about it every year."

Family friend Dana Burke introduced them to trainer Leslie Young and off they all went.

"You tell Leslie you want some horses, she'll find you some horses," McMillan said with a laugh. "We started out with two or three, now we've got eight or nine. We're having a great time."

Tomgarrow (Ire) joined the team in 2019, making his American debut at Saratoga after being purchased in Ireland. Two others made starts that first year, and the trio combined for five seconds in eight starts. In 2020, Leiper's Fork runners won twice in eight starts with Court Ruler (Ire) grabbing a Saratoga allowance and Tomgarrow making a successful conversion to timber. The 2021 season included three wins and eight seconds in 19 starts, led by Tomgarrow's stakes win over timber in October. Last year, Leiper's Fork zoomed up the charts with a circuit-best 11 wins – including Tomgarrow's triumph in the My Lady's Manor timber stakes – and $230,550 earned.

"It doesn't get any better than that," said McMillan. "I think we're addicted now."

Winning will do that to you, and the success continued into 2023. Through May 12, Leiper's Fork had won five races topped by Tomgarrow's Manor repeat April 15. The son of Aizavoski let Vintage Vinnie (Ire) take a big lead early, chipped into the advantage to stalk from second, flew the 14th fence to take command and pulled away through the stretch to win by 19 lengths for jockey Freddie Procter after 3 miles in a course record 5:43.60. Tomgarrow won for the fifth time in 10 timber starts, and showcased his affinity for the meandering course of 16 fences, and a stiff hill climb about midway through.

"The course just suits him," said Procter. "He's a good jumper, he was a bit fresh today – first run of the season – we had to do it a different way. Last year we had it our own way. This year, Vintage Vinnie went out and set some serious fractions. Vintage Vinnie was a little bit slow at the fence at the bottom of the hill (14). Tomgarrow pulled me there and I was quite surprised though because we popped the last two and then I gave him a squeeze and there was more there."

Procter likes the variety of the Manor course, which tests jockeys as much as it does horses with right-hand turns, left-hand turns, that big hill, a downhill run to the final turn, a short climb and a long stretch.

"Rather than just being a flat circuit, races around here are much more a game of chess," the Englishman said. "I enjoy that. When I first came over, I walked all these courses four or five times just to make up for my lack of course experience compared to everyone else. I like riding from the front or near the front because there are so many opportunities to steal lengths without using your horse."

As for Leiper's Fork, home to singer/actor Justin Timberlake, country star Chris Stapleton among other celebrities, McMillan said you shouldn't miss the place.

"Come to Leiper's Fork," he said as a bit of a challenge to steeplechase people thinking about a trip to the Iroquois Steeplechase each May. "Go down the scenic highways and see the country a little bit. There's a lot more to it than you think."

Tomgarrow touches down over the 10th fence in the My Lady's Manor timber stakes.

Day Divided

The first two races, run at 1:24 and 2:04 p.m., started slightly ahead of schedule as officials kept an eye on the weather but a heavy thunderstorm delayed the third race until 3:35 and produced a softer course.

Stolen Shoes (GB) didn't seem to mind as he gave Young and Procter a second win on the card in the $20,000 Thomas H. Voss Memorial maiden timber. The son of Maxios (GB) went to the front early, got passed coming up the hill by Mr. Fine Threads, pressed the leader over the final mile, took the inside lane on the final turn and drew off in the stretch while winning by 25 lengths in 6:11 for 3 miles. They were the only two finishers from five starters. Owned by the Tuscany Racing

Fashion Line leads To Be Or Not to Be over the 13th fence in the John Rush Streett Memorial maiden timber.

Master Seville (right) overtakes Awesome Adrian near the finish of the Schapiro Memorial for apprentice jockeys.

Stolen Shoes (right) shadows Mr. Fine Threads early in the Thomas H. Voss Memorial maiden timber.

> "I have to tell myself with him that he's such a grinder and it might feel like he's not taking you there, but he always has something at the end even when you don't think he does. It's a long stretch here, plus you have to remember he's going to keep finding."
>
> *– Jockey Brett Owings, about Master Seville's energy late in a race*

partnership of Dyson Dryden and John Greene, Stolen Shoes had prepped at the Brandywine Point-to-Point April 1.

"That's quite a big timber course too so I thought that would help him," Procter said. "He was a bit more lit up today. He's a great jumper and will only come on for that. I was surprised how much the rain got into the ground. That helped him too."

Procter's family raised top English hurdler Honeysuckle (GB), a winner in 17 of 19 starts and an earner of £1.4 million and had a connection to Stolen Shoes too.

"My dad [Doug] planned the mating for Stolen Shoes, total coincidence," the jockey said. "We sold the mare in foal. Me and my dad drove to Germany to pick the mare up after she had been covered, drove her home, and seven years later here's the foal winning a race with me over timber in America. It's quite a small world when you think about it."

Pennsylvania-bred Master Seville won the finale, the $15,000 John D. Schapiro allowance timber for apprentice jockeys, by seeing out a long, sustained rally from fourth over the final three fences. The 7-year-old Seville (Ger) gelding passed Royal Ruse, Mercoeur (Fr) and a stubborn Awesome Adrian late to win by three-quarters of a length in 6:09.60 for 3 miles. Bred and owned by Anne Kinsley's South Branch Equine, the winner collected his fourth timber win.

Jockey Brett Owings navigated the final turn with an inside move and was impressed with his mount's energy late.

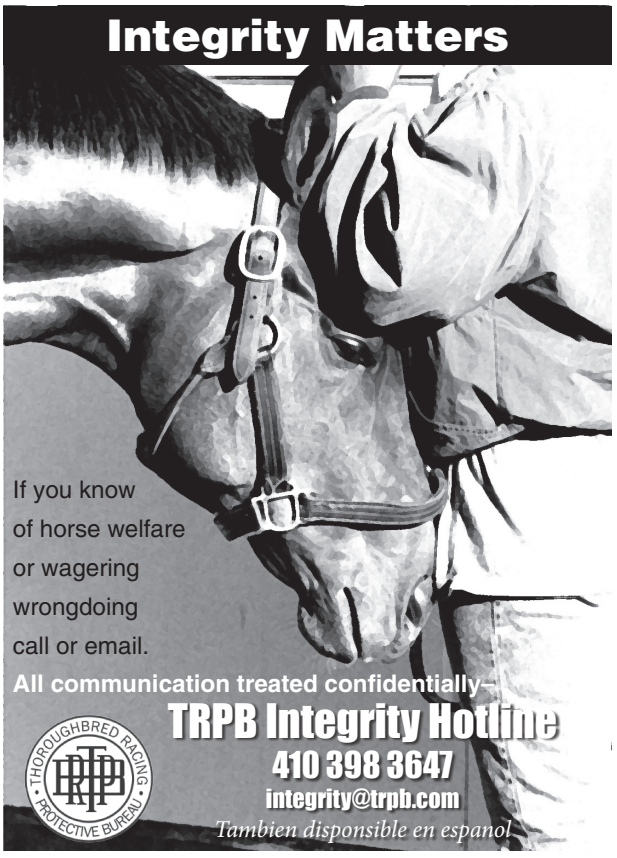
"I have to tell myself with him that he's such a grinder and it might feel like he's not taking you there, but he always has something at the end even when you don't think he does," Owings said. "It's a long stretch here, plus you have to remember he's going to keep finding."

Trainer Mark Beecher credited pedigree for some of that. His sire Seville, a son of Galileo (Ire) who stood in Maryland, died in a paddock accident in 2017 when his first foals were yearlings.

"The Sevilles are all nice, I wish there were more of them and I wish he was still here as a stallion," Beecher said. "They're jumpers. This guy has been coming along, coming along, all the time coming along. He was big and backward and we just had to be patient."

Master Seville was produced from the Hurricane Run (Ire) mare Casablanca Lily (Ire), who raced for Kinsley's husband Bob (a former joint master of the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club and Manor Races supporter who died in 2020). In addition to Master Seville, Casablanca Lily has produced Bogey's Image (a winner over hurdles and timber).

The $20,000 John Rush Streett Memorial maiden timber managed to run before the rain hit, and showcased 19-year-old apprentice jockey Conor Tierney aboard Armata Stables' Fashion Line. The 7-year-old Morning Line gelding made much of the running, lost his chief rival Cause for Pardon at the 10th fence and went on to outkick To Be Or Not to Be over the final yards to win by 1¼ lengths. Brooklyn Speights was a distant third. Kathy Neilson trained the winner, 0-for-8 on the flat and over hurdles before switching to timber this year. ■



The Steeplechase Times

The Long Way

MYSTIC STRIKE PREVAILS IN VIRGINIA GOLD CUP AT 14

By Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs by Tod Marks*

Todd McKenna's racehorses live outside. They train in fields. They use hill work and foxhunting trips for fitness. They ride to the races in a step-up Eby trailer pulled by a Ford pick-up (McKenna at the wheel). They go to the paddock on a rope lead, try to graze while getting bathed.

And run like demons.

Stable star Mystic Strike, all of 14 years old, won a 4-mile battle with two-time timber champion Andi'amu (Fr) to take the Virginia Gold Cup timber stakes at Great Meadow in The Plains, Va., May 6. Based in Pennsylvania, McKenna reacted the way anyone would when seeing hard work pay off but shifted gears to talk about his horse.

"It's a privilege to train him," McKenna said. "He won the Virginia Gold Cup. Can you believe it? I just wanted him to have another shot at the big time. After all this time, to get him that win is everything. It's not for me. I already have a painting of him on my wall of him winning the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. It's for him."

Bred in Florida and foaled in 2009 (let that sink in), Mystic Strike won twice on the flat for breeder Peter Vegso and trainer Phil Gleaves in 2012 and 2013, won again for David Jacobson the next year and slid all the way down to a $5,000 claimer with Kieron Magee at Charles Town in December 2014. Annie Yeager, McKenna's girlfriend at the time, spotted the son of Smart Strike and the Citidancer mare Mystic Rhythms in the program based on pedigree. McKenna looked up the mare, saw five other winners and was intrigued. Yeager recruited Virginia trainer Don Yovanovich to look at the horse that Thursday night at Charles Town.

"Donny called Friday morning and said, 'If you don't buy this horse, I will,' " McKenna said. "Annie yelled at me and told me to go look at the horse at Kieron's the next day. I wanted go foxhunting and wait until Sunday."

He went on Saturday. Mystic Strike had him at hello.

"As soon as they brought him out of the stall, I was like, 'Yes,' " McKenna said. "He looked like Michael Jordan – like a basketball player, an athlete. He was lean, muscular, he looked so good."

With McKenna, Mary MacKinnon, Sally Wood and Bill Wylie teaming up as owners under the Upland Partners name, the bay gelding made his timber debut in 2016. Counting point-to-points, he won five of his first six. He won his first stakes by disqualification at Radnor in 2017, added the My Lady's Manor and the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup in 2019, won another Pennsylvania Hunt Cup in 2020, three races in 2021, a third Pennsylvania Hunt Cup last year. All the while, he foxhunted and lorded over McKenna's farm in Chester County.

"There's an established pecking order and he's always been at the top, nobody's been able to take his post, he is the dominant one at home," the trainer said. "And from day one he was good at the jumping. I think it's just natural, I really do. You get these horses off the flat, and there's a process or whatever that you go through, but he's just always been a natural and he's even more natural at a proper speed. He's long and I don't know if that helps him, but it must right? He's not that tall, he's a long, and he's got a long stride."

McKenna came into 2023 with low expectations and a cautious schedule. Training a 14-year-old in his seventh season of timber racing will do that to you. Radnor's restricted timber race (non-winners of a stakes this year) was a logical target. Mystic Strike started at Cheshire in March, where he was a distant second to Court Ruler (Ire). Next came April's My Lady's

Manor and a third behind Tomgarrow (Ire). Mystic Strike headed to Middleburg a week later and finished second to Andi'amu by a neck. The performance encouraged McKenna to enter the $100,000 Gold Cup May 6, though he tried to talk himself out of it.

"I was going to scratch," he said. "Middleburg gave me some confidence. Andi'amu is really good, but I thought I could wait for Radnor where we would be a heavy favorite. It was the easier spot and I talked to so many people about whether I should run or not."

They all said run.

The Gold Cup started with five entrants and narrowed to four with a late scratch. The race itself further whittled the field as Tomgarrow lost Harry Beswick with a mistake midway through and Cracker Factory (GB) went off course the final time. That left two old warriors to slug it out for the final 6 furlongs or so. Andi'amu (13) inherited the advantage from Cracker Factory and tried to edge away while seeking a third win in the race. Having none of it, Mystic Strike covered the

Mystic Strike follows the early leaders with a lap to go in the 4-mile Virginia Gold Cup timber stakes. Trainer Todd McKenna greets the 14-year-old and Gerard Galligan after the win.

move like a Tour de France rider, took the lead in the stretch and won by 2¾ lengths after 8:25.60.

"My hardest job was to get in front of Andi'amu," said jockey Gerard Galligan. "I gunned him off the home turn. My horse had the cheek pieces, and he could hear Andi'amu coming all the time and Mystic would kick on when he heard him. It was all Mystic, all him. What fun. The adrenaline of it. I had a fall earlier and I was like, 'Why do I do this?' This is why."

Rope shank in hand, McKenna bolted to the stretch to greet the winners jogging back, hugged Galligan, hugged the horse, hugged anybody and everybody – except Wylie who watched from home so he didn't bring bad luck on the attempt.

McKenna made a phone call to share the moment.

"I wish you were here," he said.

"If I was there, we wouldn't be where you are," replied the superstitious but supportive Wylie.

No matter, Mystic Strike took them both. He won for the 11th time in 27 National Steeplechase Association timber starts and earned $60,000 to reach $282,100 in the steeplechase bank – after winning his final flat start for a $5,000 claiming tag.

McKenna credited the busy spring schedule with helping Mystic Strike find his best stride in May.

"He lives in a field and grazes all day," said the trainer. "We gallop and work and do everything else, but a race really helps my horses. Every time I go to a point-to-point or any race it's to get them another step. He was ready for his best effort. You need as many runs as you can get to get your horse right. Or I do anyway."

Through The Wings

The Virginia Gold Cup card included a $100,000 open hurdle stakes, the Grade 2 David Semmes Memorial and a $50,000 hurdle stakes for 4-year-olds, the Speedy Smithwick Memorial to headline a seven-race card.

In the Semmes, Sonny Via's Welshman continued his construction of a solid steeplechase career for trainer Jack Fisher. Purchased in the summer of 2021, the 5-year-old Flintshire (GB) gelding steamed to the front about halfway through and kept Fisher-trained stablemate Gordon's Jet (Ire) at bay by 2 lengths after 2⅛ miles in 4:02.60. Welshman made four starts on the flat for trainer Barclay Tagg in 2021 before joining Fisher's squad. The Kentucky-bred won on the turf at Laurel in October 2021, captured his hurdle debut last April, lost his way a little with four consecutive losses before closing 2022 with back-to-back wins. Second in the Carolina Cup novice stakes in his 2023 debut, he stepped forward in the Semmes.

"He has such a big engine and wants to run as hard as he can all the time," said jockey Graham Watters. "He has a bit of difficulty with that. He's turned into a very good horse now though. You want to see horses develop like that."

Welshman (opposite page) flies a fence during his victory in the David Semmes at Great Meadow for owner Sonny Via (above) and jockey Graham Watters.

Irv Naylor's McTigue (Ire) won the Smithwick by disqualification after 20-length winner Hoffman (Ire) went off course late in the race. Cyril Murphy trained the winner, ridden by Jamie Bargary.

■ The Semmes was the second $100,000 score of the spring for Fisher and Watters as stable star Snap Decision ran away with the Temple Gwathmey-G2 at Middleburg April 22. The 9-year-old led throughout and won by 3¾ lengths over Redicean (GB) while conceding 18 pounds. The $60,000 winner's check pushed the Kentucky-bred to $702,900 for his jump career, seventh on the all-time list for American steeplechasers. The six ahead of him include Hall of Famers McDynamo, Good Night Shirt and Lonesome Glory. In May, Snap Decision finished second to Irish invader Scaramanga (Ire) in the Grade 1 Iroquois.

■ Welshman wasn't the only Flintshire gelding finding success at steeplechasing as Freddy Flintshire, also a 5-year-old, outkicked five others in the $50,000 Queen's Cup novice stakes in Mineral Springs, N.C. Trained by Keri Brion for Patrick Lewis' Upland Flats Racing (not to be confused with Mystic Strike's owner), the Kentucky-bred rated well back early for Parker Hendriks, before sweeping past everyone over the final half-mile. He won by 14½ lengths over Cool Jet (Ire) with Caramelised (GB) third.

Like Welshman, Freddy Flintshire raced on the flat – losing all nine starts (two in England) – before being purchased by Brion for Lewis in 2021. A month after his final flat start with trainer Brendan Walsh, Freddy Flintshire finished third in his hurdle debut. Last year, he put together two wins – at the Queen's Cup and Saratoga – plus a second and a third in four hurdle starts.

■ Nobody was winning more races than 2022 champion trainer Leslie Young, who started the season 17-for-46 to take a commanding lead in the standings. The stable won races of all types – Maryland timber to maiden claimers in the Carolinas.

Newcomer The Hero Next Door (Ire) added an allowance win at Middleburg to his maiden score at the Carolina Cup. Despite the Gold Cup defeat, timber veteran Andi'amu (Fr) won another timber stakes to start his season – ousting Mystic Strike at Middleburg. The victory was his 13th over fences since coming to the U.S. in 2015 for Young and Ballybristol Farm.

Also at Middleburg, the Young-trained Right Tempo (Fr) produced a filly/mare maiden hurdle win in her second start. The race was named for Ptarmigan, the NSA distaff hurdle champion in 2010 for owner Magalen Bryant – who bred Right Tempo in France. Bryant campaigned steeplechase and flat horses in the U.S. and abroad during a long association with racing until her death at 92 in 2021. She also bred Fashion Line, twice a winner over timber this year for Armata Stables and trainer Kathy Neilson.

■ Jockeys Watters (back) and Hendriks (concussion) faced extended layoffs after getting injured in falls at the Gold Cup . . . Trainer Sandra Webb, a longtime assistant to Fisher, won with her first two starters of the year – Seizing the Dream and Whisky Warrior – at the Tryon meet in North Carolina April 15 . . . West Newton (GB) helped Upland Flats, a partner in graded-stakes winner Red Carpet Ready on the flat, enjoy a banner spring with a second win on the year at Foxfield April 29. Trained by Ricky Hendriks, the 7-year-old edged Scorpion's Revenge by a nose in a $60,000 hurdle handicap a month after winning at Aiken. It was the son of Kitten's Joy's fourth hurdle win . . . Oscar Winner, bred in Pennsylvania by Dr. Bill Solomon, won his hurdle debut at Foxfield for Young and owner Thomas Rice. The 5-year-old Lord Shanakill gelding won three of 15 on the flat . . . The day after Mystic Strike's heroics at the Gold Cup, McKenna won two races at the Winterthur meet in Delaware – maiden timber wins by Rhythmia, Mystic Strike's 7-year-old half-brother by Majestic Warrior, and Bob's Bar (Ire) . . . With no racing in June, the steeplechase calendar shifts to Colonial Downs and Saratoga for the summer starting July 14. ■

Triple Hit

BREEDER FINDS SUCCESS WITH FULL-BROTHERS AT PENN NATIONAL

By John Piassek

Considering a broodmare only produces one foal per year, the odds of her producing three winners in the same year are not great. The odds of having three winners within 24 hours at the same track, all full-siblings? Staggering.

That longshot came through at Penn National this spring.

On April 20, Diggers Diamond, a 7-year-old gelding by Golddigger's Boy out of the Turnofthecentury mare Precious Lilly, won the seventh race on the card. The following evening, full-brothers Copperhead Creek, a 6-year-old gelding, and Torrid, a 4-year-old gelding, also won. All three were bred by Luana Johnson at her Baywood Farm in Centerville, Pa. She also owns Copperhead Creek and Torrid.

Johnson, who grew up in northwestern Pennsylvania, has been around all types of horses.

"My mother decided to invest in Shetland ponies when they were really expensive," she said. "We had a farm with the ponies, and I always loved horses, and it just grew from there."

She went into Quarter Horses for a while, then hunters. Her interest in Thoroughbreds initially came from going to the track and looking for racehorses as potential jumpers. She got involved in racing in the mid-1980s, with a few horses at the now-defunct Commodore Downs in Erie, Pa. and at Waterford Park, now Mountaineer, in West Virginia. However, she left the sport for two decades, with her only involvement with Thoroughbreds coming from breeding them as show horses and foxhunters.

When Presque Isle Downs opened in 2007, only 45 minutes from where she lived at the time, Johnson kindled another interest in racing.

"When I heard the news, my ears perked up, and I thought, 'Oh, gee, I want to get back into racing,' " she said. "I had liked it before, but I never had a real good shot at it, and I thought, 'This is so close, I want to get back into it.' "

At the 2009 Mountain Springs Mixed Sale in Hamburg, Pa., Johnson purchased a yearling filly for $1,050. The daughter of multiple stakes-winning New York-bred Turnofthecentury (a son of Holy Bull) was out of Lilly and Ice, who won seven times and earned $153,693 in 64 starts. Named Precious Lilly, Johnson's filly raced three times at Presque Isle Downs in spring 2011, but finished no better than sixth and was retired.

"I thought she was really well-bred," Johnson said. "She had a good dam, a good second dam, and she had Holy Bull in her pedigree, so I decided I was going to pick out a stallion for her."

Johnson sent her to Mad Flatter in 2013, and the ensuing foal was a filly named Flattering Ruby. It proved to be a good match. Trained for Johnson by Flint Stites, the gray won 13 races including four in a row last year as an 8-year-old.

"She was one of the fastest mares at Penn National," Johnson said. "She was just hitting her best stride, but somebody tried to claim her for $25,000. Someone filled out the slip wrong, so they didn't get her, and I decided, 'No more of this.' She ran so well for me, and had such a big heart, I decided to bring her home."

Flattering Ruby was retired following a seventh in the 2022 Unique Bella Stakes at Parx after earning just shy of $300,000.

A few years after Flattering Ruby was born, Johnson purchased the stallion Golddigger's Boy, a son of the accomplished Pennsylvania stallion Jump Start. The four-time stakes winner earned $585,985.

"He looks just like [his sire]," said Johnson. "He has a really good temperament, I can handle him. He gets rowdy when handling a mare, but that's expected. He has beautiful

conformation, a good size. He's thrown consistently good foals for me."

Precious Lilly was bred to Golddigger's Boy four times before her death from colic in 2020. Diggers Diamond was first and made it to the races as a 3-year-old in 2019. He raced for Johnson until April 21, 2021, when he was claimed for $16,000 by Knollmore Racing and trainer Demelza McMahon.

"I had him in allowance races for quite a while, then I had a lot of horses [for his condition] and someone was going to have to drop down," Johnson said. "I dropped him for $16,000, and the second time he was in for that tag, they took him."

He's been claimed three times since, and most recently won for owner/trainer David Geist. In 52 starts, he's won five times and earned $131,853.

Copperhead Creek came next, born in June 2017. Unlike his dam and older siblings, all grays, he's a registered bay.

"They all have different colors, and different builds," said Johnson. "No similarities whatsoever. Copperhead's a very level-headed horse, unlike Flattering Ruby, and he does everything right."

After taking 2018 off, Precious Lilly gave birth to the chestnut Torrid in May 2019. The late foaling dates are by design; Johnson prefers to breed later in the season and give horses time to mature before they begin preparations to race. None of the three winners debuted until at least May of their 3-year-old years.

Johnson had dropped both runners in for $16,000 on the April 21 card: Copperhead Creek in a conditioned contest going a mile and 70 yards, and Torrid, making his third start, in a 6-furlong dash.

"I didn't think too much about it before that night, but when the race came on, I almost had a nervous breakdown," she said of potential claims. "I realized I could lose both of them tonight, and I really didn't want to. They're like my children."

In the first race, Copperhead Creek rated off the pace and drew off to win by 5 lengths.

"When Copperhead Creek won, and he was an upset winner, the only thought in my mind was, 'Did someone claim him?' " Johnson said. "The win was nice, but I was so worried about the fact that someone might claim him."

Johnson was relieved to find out no one took him, and told Stites that she didn't want him in for a tag anymore.

Three races later, Johnson then turned her attention to Torrid, who didn't debut until Feb. 8 of this year.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC. (3)

Pennsylvania-bred full-brothers (from top) Diggers Diamond, Copperhead Creek and Torrid streak to victories over two nights at Penn National in April.

"It's a hard life. It's a lot of blood, sweat and tears, and a lot of the time it's unhappy tears. But when you have horses win, it's a phenomenal feeling. They try so hard, and they have such heart. Those times are the times that make it all worth it."

– Owner/breeder Luana Johnson

"I sent him to South Carolina, and it took him forever to get back up here, then other things kept happening, winter breaks and so forth, and by the time he was finally ready, he was 4 years old," Johnson said.

After showing little on debut, he finished second March 24, and improved further next out with a 7-length victory on April 21, completing the hat trick for Johnson and Precious Lilly.

For Johnson, who bred Flattering Ruby to Golddigger's Boy and got a filly born May 7, such a feat is emblematic of what the sport is all about.

"It's a hard life. It's a lot of blood, sweat and tears, and a lot of the time it's unhappy tears," said Johnson. "But when you have horses win, it's a phenomenal feeling. They try so hard, and they have such heart. Those times are the times that make it all worth it." ■

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Straight Path

STREAKING HOMEBRED TWISTED RIDE PROPELS KASEY K FORWARD

By John Piassek

So far in 2023, Twisted Ride has enjoyed nothing but smooth sailing at Parx Racing.

The 4-year-old son of Great Notion has been on a tear, winning four straight, including a pair of stakes. He won the $100,000 Page McKenney Handicap against fellow Pennsylvania-breds April 24, prevailing by a nose over Uncle Ernie, with Beren third. In that race, he opened a clear lead late but was almost run down. That was exhilarating, but not surprising for his co-owner and breeder, Bob Krangel.

"All this horse wants right now is competition. He just waits on horses. It's frustrating, but if you watch his last few races, it's one street fight after another. He's a cool horse."

It's all part of the experience with Twisted Ride, the latest success for Krangel and his wife, Sue, who race under Kasey K Racing Stable. Krangel, a native of Long Island, first got into racing by watching Standardbreds at the old Roosevelt Raceway in Westbury, N.Y. He got his first taste of Thoroughbreds one summer day in 1988, when, on a tip, he traveled to Belmont Park and happened to see the debut of Easy Goer. Although the future champion and Hall of Famer finished second by a nose that day, Krangel was enchanted by the flats.

He eventually settled in central New Jersey, where he joined an ownership syndicate on the advice of his wife. After a few years, Bob and Sue went out on their own, naming their stable after their dog. They claimed their first horse, Buffer Zone, for $25,000 with trainer Peter Walder at Monmouth Park in July 2005 and won three races with him.

Since then, they've had a bevy of successful claims. In January 2012, they took Hello Lover for $7,500 at Parx and won nine races with him over the next 18 months, placing in five stakes, a couple graded, along the way. Along with longtime partner Michael Day, the Krangels claimed Brother Chub for $12,500 at Parx March 2017 and watched him win the 2018 John J. Reilly Handicap and the 2019 Claiming Crown Express Stakes, among 14 total victories for his new connections. He retired last summer and resides at Old Friends in Lexington, Ky. The Krangels enjoyed their biggest success in 2011, when they won the Breeders' Cup Marathon-G2 with Afleet Again, purchased two months before the race, in a 41-1 upset for trainer Butch Reid.

The Krangels got involved in breeding after they claimed Pennsylvania-bred Diva's Gold for $15,000 in August 2010. She went on to place in five stakes before her retirement in August 2012. She returned a $14,000 RNA at the 2012 Keeneland November sale, and the Krangels, who had grown fond of her, decided to take a shot with her as a broodmare.

While her first foal, by Jump Start, never raced following a training accident, her second foal, Goodonehoney (2015, Great Notion), enjoyed much more success. In her second start, the Maryland-bred filly won the 2018 Weber City Miss Stakes at Laurel Park. She finished fifth in the Black-Eyed Susan-G2 next out following a rough trip and missed the rest of the year with ankle problems. She returned as a 4-year-old and placed in two stakes, ultimately retiring with earnings of $193,098.

After breeding Diva's Gold to a few other regional stallions and producing winners Reigning Fire (Friesan Fire) and Big Time Operator (Uncle Lino), the Krangels went back to Great Notion in 2018. The mating produced Twisted Ride, foaled at Sylmar Farm in Christiana, Pa., and a winner of half of his 14 starts with earnings just shy of $350,000.

"It's nice because, as a son of Great Notion, he's Maryland Million-eligible, but we're also getting 20-percent bonuses on

NIKKI SHERMAN/EQUI-PHOTO

Kasey K Racing's homebred Twisted Ride (2) digs in late to win his second consecutive stakes in the Page McKenney Handicap.

his races at Parx," said Krangel. "It's a little bit of the best of both worlds."

His name, indirectly, comes from the 2019 film *Parasite*. "We were having a tough time with the name, and I was watching TV and saw a thing for *Parasite*," Krangel said. "One guy said, 'What a twisted ride this movie is,' and I just thought that was a cool name for a horse."

Krangel considers it fitting, because Twisted Ride's "personality is a little twisted. You gotta watch him every step of the way. He's the type where, if you're walking with him, you have to watch out, because he'll get up on his hind legs and start doing stupid things. In his first few races, the jockey came off in the post parade and had to get back on. He had trouble going into the gate. But he's a high-energy, happy horse, and he looks beautiful. As a racehorse, he's matured so much."

Originally in the Kate DeMasi barn, Twisted Ride finished third in his debut at Parx Jan. 31, 2022, for the Krangels, Day, and James Costabile's Final Turn Racing. Twisted Ride won a 1-mile maiden special weight in February. Next out, he picked up his first stakes victory in the City of Brotherly Love by a nose March 8. However, it wasn't until he joined the Michael Moore stable last summer and started racing around one turn that he began to truly excel.

Under Moore's tutelage, the gelding has a record of 5-2-0 in nine starts. After starting his season with a fifth in the Blitzen Stakes Jan. 4, he's undefeated, including scores in the Fishtown March 7 and the Page McKenney.

"My God, what a wonderful animal. If you watch his last few replays, every single race he's in, he's going head-to-head the first part of the race," Krangel said. "He's never had a race where he's just in front [by himself], and that's the cool part about him. You get head-to-head with him, and you know he'll get the job done. He's beaten some nice horses."

The Krangels credit Moore, one of their trainers for about five years, with much of Twisted Ride's improvement.

"I've got six or seven horses with him now," said Bob. "In 20 years, I've never had a better relationship with a trainer in my life. He's the most honorable [guy], looks after my money like it's his own, and he's become a hell of a trainer. I trust the guy 100 percent with my horses. We've become great friends."

Moore paid Twisted Ride a compliment for getting better with time.

"When I first got him, he was real green, he had only run a few times, and a handful to do everything with, whether it was train or race," said Moore. "People ask me, 'What did you do with that horse? He's become so good,' and I think the majority of it is him just maturing. We put some blinkers on him and he's able to focus a little better."

Moore was also sure to keep him in sprints, rather than two-turn races.

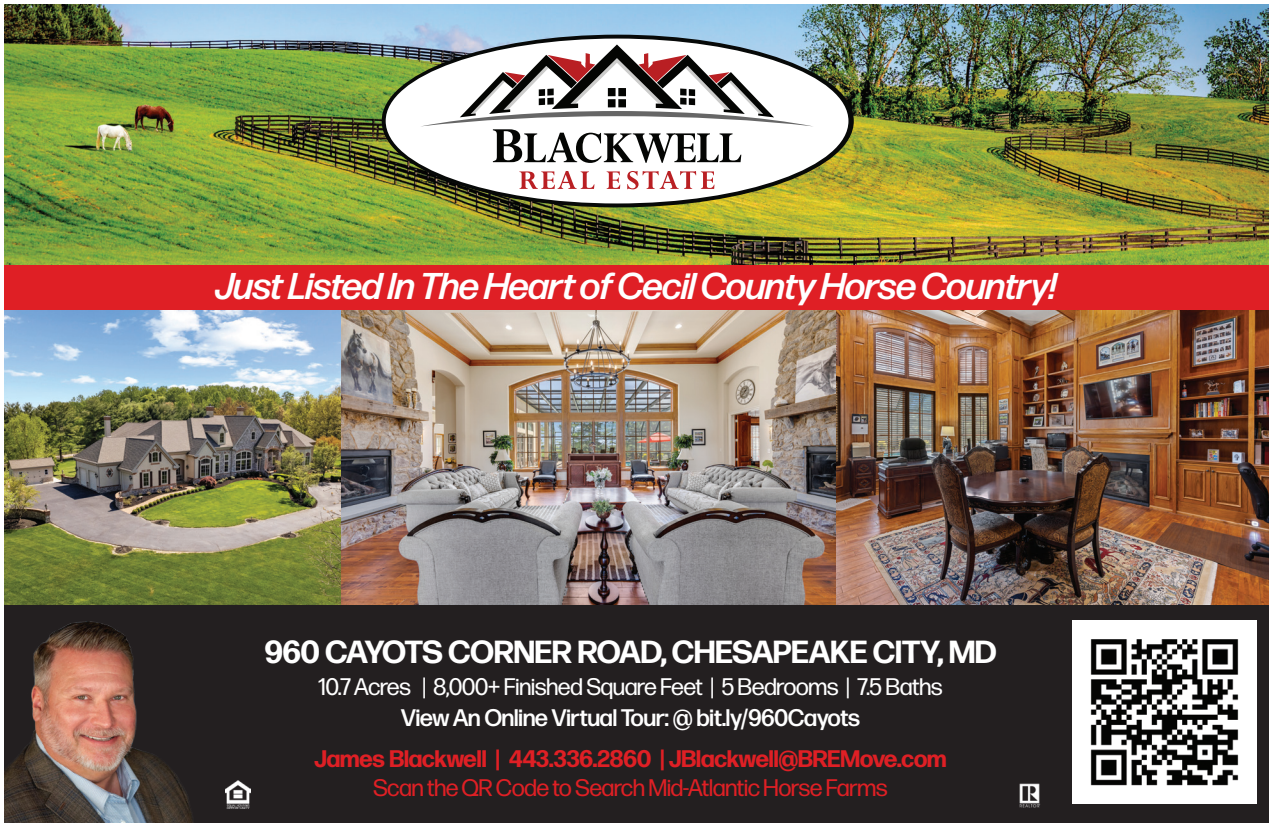
"The way he trained and whatnot, he seemed better as a sprinter to me. It doesn't mean he can't go long, and I'm not necessarily against trying that again, but he's doing so well sprinting, in my opinion, it's hard to change that right now."

Krangel and Moore have their sights on bigger targets and Twisted Ride rewarded that faith with a second in the Runhappy Stakes-G3 at Belmont Park May 13.

"We have to put his big boy pants on now, and travel more," said Krangel. "His numbers are great, he's beaten some really good horses. People thought I was crazy to run my horse in the Breeders' Cup, but we won the race at 41-1. It's no guts, no glory in this game."

Diva's Gold remains active as a broodmare. She has a 2-year-old Maryland-bred filly named Lady Sriracha (by Golden Lad) and a Pennsylvania-bred yearling full-sister named Elegant Lass. A cover to Great Notion for 2023 did not produce a foal, but she was bred back to Golden Lad for 2024. Goodonehoney has also become a broodmare. Her first foal, a filly by Golden Lad named Takethemoneyhoney, is a 2-year-old, followed by an Uncle Lino filly named Wouldja Couldja. The mare was bred back to Golden Lad for 2024.

NOTES: Later on the April 24 card, Reid-trained runners finished 1-2-3 in the $100,000 Unique Bella Stakes for Pennsylvania-bred fillies and mares. With Paco Lopez aboard for LC Racing, Cash is King and Gary Barber, **Morning Matcha** won her 4-year-old debut over Disco Ebo, with Ninety-percentbrynn third. Morning Matcha placed in three graded stakes last year, including a second in the Cotillion Stakes-G1 . . . Apprentice jockey **Sofia Vives** made her American debut a winning one at Parx April 17, winning a conditioned claiming race aboard Delightful Dreamer for trainer Louis Linder Jr. Vives began her riding career at Woodbine in Canada last year and has been impressive at Parx so far, winning five races from 29 mounts through May 7 . . . Parx hosted the first 2-year-old races of the season in the Mid-Atlantic May 1. **Factor U and Me In**, a Pennsylvania-bred homebred for Blackstone Farm trained by Clovis Crane, won a 2-furlong dash by 1¾ lengths under Julio Hernandez. Later that day, **Living Magic** won a 4½-furlong contest by a half-length under Victor Carrasco for owner/breeder HnR Nothhaft Horse Racing and trainer Phil Schoenthal. She is a daughter of Justify out of Hank Nothhaft's two-time Presque Isle Downs Masters Stakes-G2 winner Living The Life (Ire). . . With more than a third of the season in the books, the jockeys' race was contentious. **Mychel Sanchez** held a slight lead with 61 wins from 277 mounts as of May 7, but Ruben Silvera, with 59 victories, and Frankie Pennington, with 55 wins, were in close pursuit . . . **Jamie Ness** was well in front in the training race, having saddled the winners of 55 races from 222 starts. ■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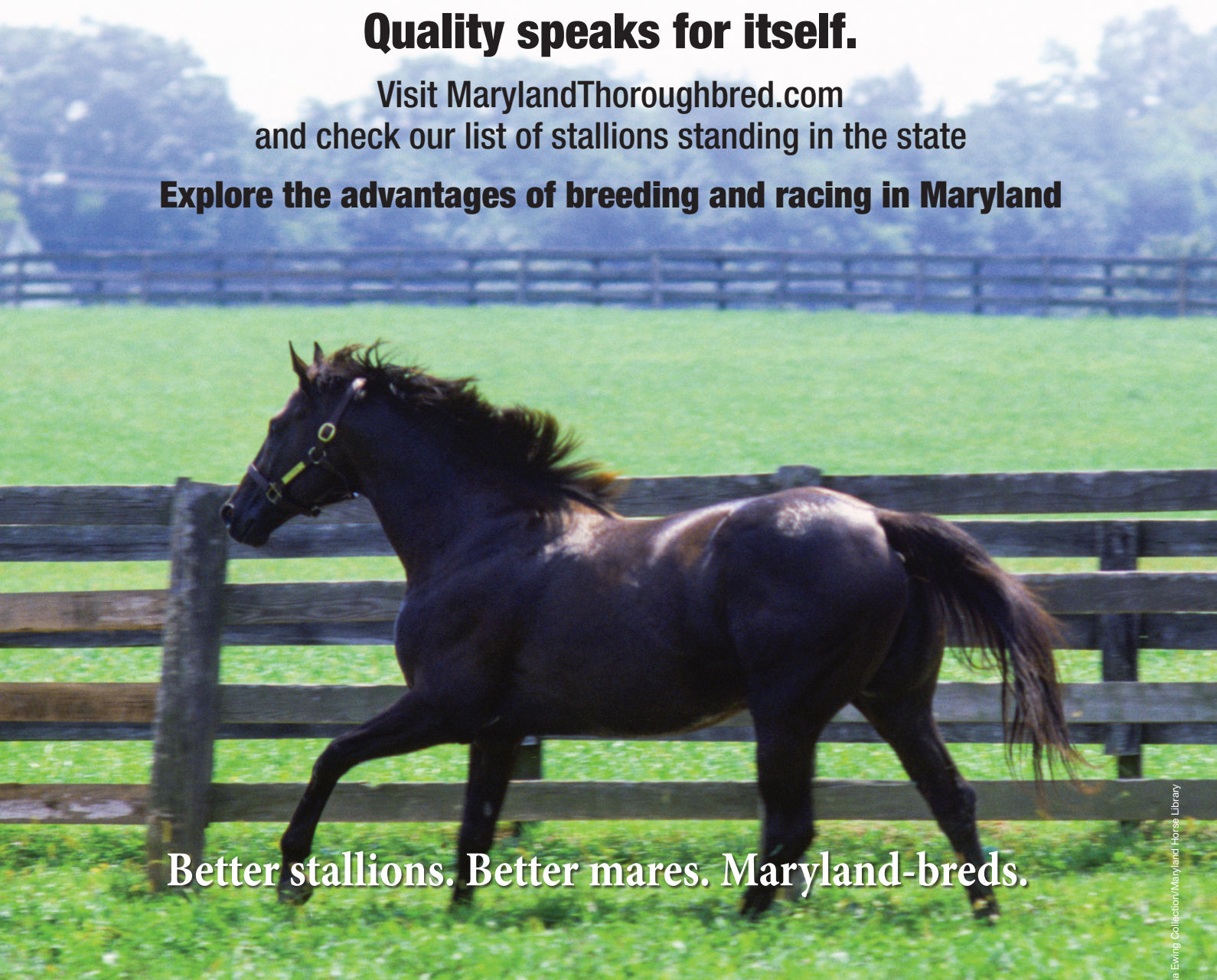

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— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

June – Mopping Up

CARLY ABBOTT

On the farm, June straggles in like the proverbial red-headed stepchild. It's not really foaling season (one hopes); it had better not be breeding season (one hopes); and it's not really yearling prep time unless you have big, well-grown February colts headed to Kentucky for the July Sale. And while June isn't any of those things, in reality it's a little bit of all of them.

If January is gearing up as you prepare for the deluge and March and April are triage, June is the mopping up process that marks the end of the battle that is the first five months of the year. Your troops are exhausted and in need of a few days leave and a few nights sleep.

Invariably, however, there will be a mare or two to foal. She might be an older mare who, after a long string of foals, has gotten later and later. The owner wants to get "one last foal" in the hope of getting a filly before a favorite is retired. Or it might be a young mare who had trouble cycling in the year she was retired from racing after getting "one last start" in February or March of the previous year. Or it might be a mare bred on a "no guarantee" season who made several trips to the breeding shed before conception. Are we sensing a trend here? Also, a friend in the show-horse business might ask a favor and now you're foaling a warmblood mare because those people don't care when their foals are born.

I once said no, and I hardly ever said no, to a very good friend who wanted us to a foal a mare in August. That was a bridge too far. We're prepping yearlings or going to Saratoga by then, for God's sake. A different drummer is beating the march in August.

On most stud farms, Thoroughbred stallions continue to breed until July 4, but most of the late mares are owned by people who breed to race and who are in no hurry to get their 2-year-olds to the track. Most of our clients were commercial breeders who, as I have written before, were fixated on early foals and their perceived advantages in the marketplace. Also, if you are considering selling your mare, remember, a June breeding date will kill the value of almost any mare. Wait until next year if you possibly can.

There are times, however, when an owner insists or the age of the mare dictates a June breeding. Unfortunately, these are often unsuccessful because you are breeding an older mare or because the mare has made several earlier breeding shed visits that have been fruitless. Theoretically, June breedings should be highly successful. Mares are at their most fecund, but the ones we present to be covered in June are often those with the least chance of conception.

While you are mopping up the breeding season and you and your staff have gotten a little break, it's time to turn your full attention to those yearlings waiting in the back field for you to notice them. By now their destinations have been determined and it's time to bring them up and get to work. Obviously, the ones whose owners will race them can be kept rough for a little while longer. The sales yearlings, separated by sex since St. Patrick's Day, need to come into the barn during the day so that their coats will not be destroyed by the summer sun.

On many farms, sales yearlings come in at first light and are not turned out until 6 or 7 p.m. to protect their coats. In our experience turning out at 4 p.m. achieved the same result. It seemed that the late afternoon sun was not as damaging as the midday sun and turning out at 4 p.m. had the added advantage that a crew didn't have to come back to work in the evening. For purposes of morale that was a big advantage. It also gave the yearlings two or three additional hours of relaxation and

grazing. In many of our busiest years we had a crew which came in after turnout and mucked the stalls so they were ready for their occupants in the morning. This schedule allowed the sales prep crew to concentrate on their horses and get more done with fewer people.

At Charlton, we had a roughly 60-day sales prep routine and June was mostly a period of civilizing the yearlings and getting them used to being in the stall for an extended period of time. Many fillies became very herd bound over the winter and spring and we would put them in stalls across the aisle so that they could keep track of their friends. After a few days in this configuration, the friend could be moved one stall down the aisle and eventually they could be at separate ends of the barn. This procedure was very important because when fillies who have not been separated arrive at the sales grounds they often "lose it" when they are not stabled together. They will run the stall, throw themselves at the screen banging up their faces, and lose considerable weight overnight.

On many sales grounds there are no window openings between stalls. We always traveled with small metal mirrors made for athletic lockers. Some horses can be fooled into thinking that they can see another horse by looking at themselves in one of these mirrors. Tranquilizers will work on some but the dosage to relax them in the stall usually makes them too dull and listless to show to advantage. I can't stress enough the importance of this separation process.

Unlike the fillies that miss their friends, the colts can become overly aggressive. Climbing the walls is not unusual and they can make themselves impossible to catch in the stall. Their natural testosterone makes them braver and more independent, and they usually settle down more quickly than fillies. All in all, bringing up the yearlings is a lot like weaning all over again.

Ideally, the yearlings will have been handled in the field being dewormed, vaccinated and tended to by the blacksmith. Some will have even been brought up and kept in because of an injury or illness. The training they will get in June mostly involves getting them to respect the handler's space and do what is asked; relatively low-stress preparation for the more intense training to come.

So June is the month when the farm is flipped on its head. Mares and foals are now living outside where the yearlings have been and yearlings are in the barn taking the first steps along the path that will lead them through the sale, to the breaking farms and ultimately to the racetrack.

By the following June most of them will be living 23 hours a day in stalls on the backside. Our job is to begin the lessons that will start them on that path. ■

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**president appointed*

DIRECTORS EMERITUS
(served 18 years)
J. William Boniface, R. Thomas Bowman, King T. Leatherbury, Donald P. Litz Jr., Ann Merryman, Michael Pons, James B. Steele, Katharine M. Voss

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(past MHBA presidents)
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Wilcke will be remembered for contribution to industry

By Joe Clancy

Richard W. Wilcke, former executive vice president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, founding executive director of the Maryland Million Ltd. as well as founding editor of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, died April 18 at Shelbyville Hospital in Kentucky. A resident of Pleasureville, Ky., he was 79.

Described as "a true polymath, with a prodigious career and countless lifetime pursuits," Wilcke came to Maryland in April 1986 to oversee the launch of the Maryland Million and remained until September 1995.

"Rich was a great multitasker. He was able to manage many projects at once. He came to Maryland and took on Jim McKay's challenge to start a Breeders' Cup-type program for Maryland horses," said Cricket Goodall, current executive director of the MHBA and the Maryland Million Ltd. "He loved a challenge and his fingerprints are all over what we are doing here with our new Maryland Horse Library and Education Center and a permanent home for the MHBA."

Maryland was fortunate to have his leadership for nearly a decade. In addition to the emergence of the Maryland Million program, and his foresight of expanding the *Maryland Horse* magazine to

encompass the region while highlighting Maryland, in the form of *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, Wilcke also started the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's charitable arm, now the Maryland Horse Foundation.

"Rich was one of my most influential mentors," said Barrie Reightler, director of publications for the MHBA, "but more importantly, he was a true visionary. He recognized industry trends, and that Maryland was at the center of the hub of Mid-Atlantic racing when he created *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*."

The expansion of the *Maryland Horse* into *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* began with a regional stallion directory in 1991, added a statistical review edition in 1992, and became a full-fledged magazine with the May/June edition of 1993. Published bi-monthly alongside the monthly *Maryland Horse* at first, the magazine covered Thoroughbred racing and breeding in the region. That first edition began with a short introduction from Wilcke, who called it "a new magazine from an old publisher" with the goal "to cover and to serve the business of racing – and the business of breeding for racing" – in the region.

Today, in a far different media and racing landscape, the magazine essentially does the same thing. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* built on Wilcke's belief that the regional industry was strong enough, viable enough and connected enough to warrant coverage in a dedicated publication. The MHBA started it all with the first *Maryland Horse* in 1936, Wilcke and the others who followed built, adapted, published and carried on.

The same could be said for the Maryland Million. It was McKay's concept, but Wilcke was hired to make it work. The day of racing for state-sired horses spawned dozens of imitators and shaped the future of Thoroughbred racing. State-bred and state-sired programs are the backbone of the nation's Thoroughbred industry.

Born in Albany, N.Y., to Dr. Burton and June Wilcke, Rich attended the Albany Academy, where he met Janny Nyquist, a student at the Albany Academy for Girls. Rich and Janny married in December of 1966 and had five children.

In 1968, Rich graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in agriculture.

While at KSU, Wilcke competed in rodeo and on the livestock judging team. He served briefly in the Marine Corps Forces Reserve, spent several years in broadcasting, and worked as the director of information for the Kansas Livestock Association. He was the CEO of a national business association in Washington, D.C., before coming to Maryland.

In 1995, he moved to Kentucky to join the University of Louisville College of Business faculty, later becoming the director of the Equine Industry Program, and remained at Louisville until his retirement in 2014.

Over the decades since leaving Maryland, Wilcke would readily share memories and thoughts when asked about significant milestones, such as anniversaries of the creation of the Maryland Bred Race Fund and the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Rich was known for his innumerable interests and passions.

In addition to his lifelong involvement in the equine industry, he was a bibliophile and lover of ideas. He enjoyed reading, writing, and collecting books. He derived endless joy from the peace and beauty of his farm.

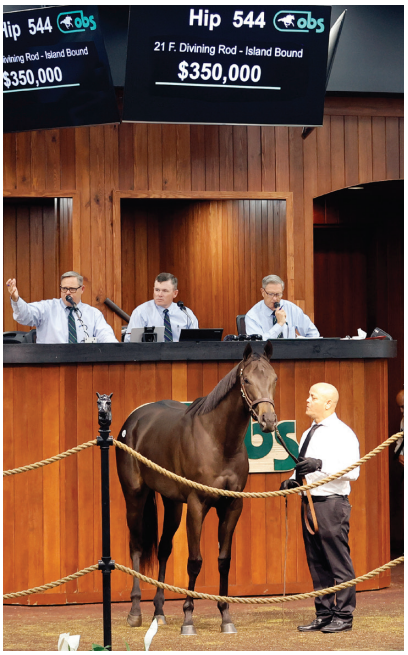
Over the past few months, Rich donated numerous volumes of his books to the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center, a dream he had decades ago for the Maryland Horse Breeders Association that he sadly never had the chance to visit.

To those who knew him, Rich was a devoted and supportive husband, brother, father, grandfather, and friend. He was preceded in death by his sons William and Benjamin Wilcke and is survived by his wife Janny, his daughters Ardith, Caroline and Madlen, eight grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and countless family members and friends.

Memorial donations may be made to the Brown Cancer Center at University of Louisville Health.

Half-sister to Aloha West brings $350,000 at OBS

A Divining Rod filly out of Island Bound (Hip 544) sold for $350,000 to top four Maryland-breds sold (from six offered) at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's spring sale of 2-year-olds in Ocala, Fla., April 25-28.



The dark bay, bred by Katy Voss, was consigned by Best a Luck Farm and sold to Bradley Thoroughbreds after breezing a furlong in 9⅘ seconds. Purchased for $60,000 by Maryland trainer Mike Trombetta at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, the Maryland-sired filly is a half-sister to 2021 Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1 winner Aloha West (Hard Spun). Island Bound (by Speightstown) has also produced winners Island Getaway (Animal Kingdom), Noble Way (Noble Mission-GB) and Moquist (Nyquist).

Hip 460, a gray or roan filly by Arrogate out of the Candy Ride (Arg) mare Hay Dilly bred by Timothy Rooney, sold for $250,000 to Mike Ryan, agent for Peter Redekop BC Ltd. She breezed furlong in 10⅖ seconds. A winner in five starts, Hay Dilly has also produced a yearling colt by Frosted and is a half-sister to graded stakes winners Basin (Liam's Map) and Rise Up (Rockport Harbor).

Maryland-breds sold for an average of $156,750, compared to the sale average of $130,021.

Registration questions?
Membership inquiries?
Member benefits questions?

Call Emily
at the MHBA office
410.252.2100 ext. 129

Horse Council encourages study participation

The American Horse Council is conducting one of the biggest studies in its more than 50 years with the 2023 National Economic Impact Study. The purpose is to demonstrate the value of the equine industry in the national and state economies by analyzing direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of horse ownership, recreation and equine-related services.

"The Economic Impact Study is the most effective tool in our advocacy quiver," said Julie Broadway, president of the AHC. "When the industry needs to take aim at an issue, this data is invaluable in helping us paint the picture of the contributions the industry makes and the breadth and depth of its composition."

The survey began April 3 and runs through Sept. 29.

Participants in the survey have a chance to win a John Deere Z545R ZTrak mower valued at $7,500, one year of Nutrena feed for one horse (a $2,000 value); one year of Purina feed for one horse (a $500 value/horse); gift certificates from Trafalgar Square Books (total value $180); enrollment in Texas A&M AgriLife Equine Reproductive Management Online Course valued at $300/enrollment; plus more.

To participate or find out more, see horsecouncil.org or email jbroadway@horsecouncil.org.

Breeders, owners, trainers and Maryland horsemen gathered at Baltimore's Citron Restaurant April 14 to celebrate the 2022 Maryland Champions Renaissance Awards.

Owner Ellen Charles (left) and trainer Brittany Russell accept the trophies for 2-year-old male champion Post Time, bred by Dr. and Mrs. Tom Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman and Milton Higgins III.

Owners/breeders Deborah Greene and Hamilton Smith accept the champion 3-year-old filly award for Luna Belle. Smith was also her trainer.

Michael Golden and his sister Lisa Hofstetter accept the Stallion of the Year award for Great Notion, who stands at their Northview Stallion Station.

Owner/breeder Ann Kinsley and trainer/jockey Sean McDermott accept the award for champion steeplechaser Who's Counting.

Trainer Brittany Russell and Michael Golden (for breeder David Wade) accept the champion older male award for Whereshetoldmetogo, owned by Madaket Stable, Ten Strike Racing, Michael Kisber and BTR Racing.

Breeder Dr. Ronald Harris Parker accepts the champion 2-year-old filly award for Malibu Moonshine.

Horse of the Year, champion older female and champion sprinter Fille d'Esprit was represented by (from left) jockey Xavier Perez, trainer and co/owners Jerry and Gina Robb of No Guts No Glory Farm, and breeders Gail and Jim Poulos of Sweet Spirits Stables.

Maryland-bred steeplechasers earn bonuses

For the second year, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association sponsored a bonus program for owners, breeders and Maryland stallion owners for Maryland-breds running in the NSA sanctioned steeplechase meets in Maryland. The 2023 spring events were My Lady's Manor, Grand National, Maryland Hunt Cup, and the program includes Shawan Downs this fall.

"We always look forward to the spring racing season and see it as a showcase for Maryland-bred steeplechase horses," said Cricket Goodall, executive director of the MHBA. "Steeplechasing is such an important part of Maryland's horse community we are happy to reward and encourage breeders and owners to show off the quality of their Maryland-breds."

A registered Maryland-bred who finish first, second or third at sanctioned Maryland steeplechase meets received a 30 percent owner and breeder bonus, plus 10 percent to his or her Maryland sire.

Five Maryland-breds earned bonuses this spring. The MHBA-sponsored program paid $12,720 to owners, breeders and Maryland stallion owners.

30 Percent Breeder Awards

South Branch Equine. Bogey's Image, Grand National, $2,250.

Bonita Farm. To Be Or Not to Be, My Lady's Manor, $1,080.

Jean W. Harris. Mr. Fine Threads, My Lady's Manor, $1,080.

Nancy A. Reed. Awesome Adrian, My Lady's Manor, $810.

Bonita Farm. Fletched, Grand National, $540.

30 Percent Owner Awards

Dan Colhoun, Achsah O'Donovan and Harvey Goolsby. Bogey's Image, Grand National, $2,250.

Irvin L. Crawford II. To Be Or Not to Be, My Lady's Manor, $1,080.

Armata Stables. Mr. Fine Threads, My Lady's Manor, $1,080.

Nancy A. Reed. Awesome Adrian, My Lady's Manor, $810.

Black and Blue Stable. Fletched, Grand National, $540.

10 Percent Stallion Awards

Anchor and Hope Farm for Imagining Syndicate. Bogey's Image, Grand National, $750.

Northview Stallion Station for Great Notion. Awesome Adrian, My Lady's Manor, $270.

Bonita Farm Stallion Partnership. Fletched, Grand National, $180.

Bogey's Image earned the most in breeder, owner and stallion bonuses among Maryland-bred steeplechase horses in Maryland this spring.

Douglas Lees

Complete results from NSA Maryland steeplechase meets:

MARYLAND HUNT CUP

Glyndon, Md., April 29. 4 miles over timber, 5&up, amateur jockeys. $100,000. Time: 8:49.80. Margin: 10¾. 1-Irvin Naylor's WITHOUTMOREADO (Ire) (b.g., 9, Shantou—Statim, Marju); bred by J. O'Connor & Burgage Stud in Ireland); trainer Kathy Neilson; jockey Conor Tierney. 2-Charles Fenwick's Royal Ruse; Sanna Neilson; Elizabeth Scully. Also ran: Vintage Vinnie (Ire) (pulled up), Shootist (pulled up), Hill Tie (pulled up), Blackhall (Ire) (fell), Rocket Star Red (fell), Goodoldtimes (Ire) (lost rider).

GRAND NATIONAL

Butler, Md., April 22. **Grand National Timber Stakes**, 31/4 miles, 5&up, amateur jockeys. $30,000. Time: 5:46.60. Margin: 2¾. 1-Tuscany Racing's MONBEG STREAM (IRE) (b.g., 7, Libertarian—No Ordinary Love, Expelled); bred by Aidan Fogarty in Ireland; trainer Leslie Young; jockey Freddie Procter. 2-Kiplin Hall's Renegade River; Willie Dowling; George Daly. 3-Upland Partners' Shootist; Todd McKenna; Frederick Tett. Also ran: Withoutmoreado (Ire), Royal Ruse, Master Seville, Our Friend (Ire) (lost rider).

Maiden timber, 3 miles, 5&up, amateur jockeys. $12,500. Time: 6:05. Margin: 4. 1-Dan Colhoun, Achsah O'Donovan and Harvey Goolsby's BOGEY'S IMAGE (ch.g., 6, Imagining—Casablanca Lily-Ire, Hurricane Run-Ire); bred by South Branch Equine in Md.; trainer Joe Davies; jockey Eric Poretz. 2-Greenlights' The Butler Yates (Ire); Leslie Young; Freddie Procter. 3-Upland Partners' Rhythmia; Todd McKenna; Frederick Tett. Also ran: Druid's Altar (Ire) (pulled up), Profiteer (pulled up), Shootin the Breeze (lost rider), Hero's Return (fell).

Benjamin H. Murray Memorial, allowance timber (NW2), 31/4 miles, 5&up, amateur jockeys. $17,500. Time: 6:27.20. Margin: ½. 1-Kinross Farm's GREAT ROAD (dk.b./br.g., 8, Three Chopt Road—Goodness Greatness, Albert the Great); bred by Bybee Road Farm in W.Va.; trainer Joe Davies; jockey Eric Poretz. 2-Kinross Farm's Blackhall (Ire); Joe Davies; Theresa Dimpfel. 3-Lucy Goelet's Rocket Star Red; Mark Beecher; Brett Owings. Also ran: Hill Tie.

Western Run Plate, 3 miles over timber, 5&up, amateur/apprentice jockeys. $10,000. Time: 6:19.60. Margin: 2. 1-Armata Stables' CHOSEN MATE (Ire) (b.g., 10, Well Chosen—Norwich Star, Norwich-GB); bred by M. Fogarty in Ireland; trainer Ricky Hendriks; jockey Virginia Korrell. 2-Black and Blue Stable's Fletched; Forrest Kelly; Elizabeth Scully; 3-Ballybristol Farm's Rakhaa (GB); Leslie Young; Dan Nevin. Also ran: Huyana, It's Nothing (pulled up).

MY LADY'S MANOR

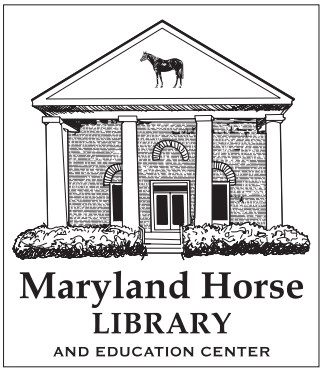
Monkton, Md., April 15. **My Lady's Manor Timber Stakes,** 3 miles, 5&up, amateur jockeys. $50,000. Time: 5:43.60. Margin: 19. 1-Leipers Fork Steeplechasers' TOMGARROW (Ire) (ch.g., 9, Aizavoski—Roomier, Bienamado); bred by Kay Curtis in Ireland; trainer Leslie Young; jockey Freddie Procter. 2-Armata Stable's Vintage Vinnie (Ire); Joe Davies; Teddy Davies. 3-Upland Partners' Mystic Strike; Todd McKenna; Frederick Tett. Also ran: Goodoldtimes (Ire).

John Rush Streett Memorial, maiden timber, 3 miles, 5&up, amateur jockeys. $20,000. Time: 6:01.60. Margin: 1¼. 1-Armata Stables' FASHION LINE (dk.b./br.g., 7, Morning Line—Well Fashioned, Cozzene); bred by Magalen Bryant in Ky.; trainer Kathy Neilson; jockey Conor Tierney. 2-Irvin Crawford II's To Be Or Not to Be; Joe Davies; Teddy Davies. 3-Brooklyn Speights; Mark Beecher, Brett Owings. Also ran: Cause for Pardon (lost rider).

Thomas H. Voss Memorial, maiden timber, 3 miles, 5&up, amateur jockeys. $20,000. Time: 6:11. Margin: 25. 1-Tuscany Racing's STOLEN SHOES (GB) (b.g., 6, Maxios—Frequently, Dansili-GB; bred by William Slattery in Great Britain); trainer Leslie Young; rider Freddie Procter. 2-Armata Stables' Mr. Fine Threads; Joe Davies; Teddy Davies. Also ran: Adjutant (GB) (lost rider), Quality Choice (pulled up), Family Tree (GB) (fell).

John D. Schapiro Memorial, open timber, 3 miles, 5&up, amateur/apprentice jockeys. $15,000. Time: 6:09.60. Margin: ¾. 1-South Branch Equine's MASTER SEVILLE (b.g., 7, Seville-Ger—Casablanca Lily-Ire, Hurricane Run-Ire); bred by South Branch Equine in Pa.; trainer Mark Beecher; jockey Brett Owings. 2-Nancy Reed's Awesome Adrian; Kathy Neilson; Conor Tierney. 3-Charles Fenwick's Royal Ruse; Sanna Neilson; Elizabeth Scully. Also ran: Mercoeur (Fr), Pocket Talk (Ire).

Library schedules two June book events



Upcoming events at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center in Reisterstown include an author talk and book signing with Jennifer Kelly, and a book discussion about the biography of Daniel B. Brewster.

Jennifer Kelly, author of *The Foxes of Belair: Gallant Fox, Omaha, and the Quest for the Triple Crown*, will visit the library at 4 p.m. June 8 to discuss her book that delves into the history of one of Maryland's–and America's–most famed Thoroughbred breeders of the early 20th century, William Woodward. Not only does she examine the racing legacies of his Triple Crown winners Gallant Fox and Omaha, who spent their early lives on the historic Belair Stud in Prince George's County, but how William Woodward's service to racing during the 20th century forever changed the landscape of the American Thoroughbred industry.

She'll have copies of her newest book on hand to purchase and sign, as well as her earlier book *Sir Barton and the Making of the Triple Crown*.

The new biography, *Self Destruction: The Rise, Fall and Redemption of U.S. Senator Daniel B. Brewster*, is the topic of discussion Monday, June 26 with author John Frece, a longtime legislative reporter with the *Baltimore Sun* and United Press International, along with son Gerry Brewster and other members of the Brewster family.

"Hollywood handsome Danny Brewster had it all: inherited wealth, stellar education, decorated combat Marine, prestigious horse farm, and even a seat in the United States Senate. He helped pass some of the most important civil rights legislation in our history, and provided the first political jobs to future House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. Then, debilitated by alcoholism, he self-destructed and lost it all," states an introduction of the book.

For videos of previous author talks and events, including an author talk with Alvin Stone and the panel discussion "Women & Horses" with Karen Fulton, Georganne Hale, Cindy Halle and Cappy Jackson, as well as future events at the library, visit at marylandhorse.com/library.

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The Maryland Horse Library and Education Center plans to host programs the fourth Monday of every month.

Visit
Maryland Horse.com/library
for updates on our schedule

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run in February 2023 at Maryland tracks

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Linda L. Albert—Mit Mazel: Feb. 3, 8th race, $6,480.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Al Loves Josie: Feb. 11, 7th race, $7,830; Feb. 25, 8th race, $8,370. And Whistle: Feb. 5, 5th race, $4,860/$1,620. Uncommon Valor: Feb. 5, 2nd race, $3,105; Feb. 12, 5th race, $3,240. ($29,025)

Barak Farm—Lady Mosler: Feb. 26, 9th race, $810. She Is Wisky: Feb. 3, 8th race, $2,160. ($2,970)

Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen—Backnthewoods: Feb. 26, 8th race, $9,450.

David Baxter, Sr.—Miss Casey: Feb. 10, 2nd race, $1,170.

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Billykus: Feb. 3, 1st race, $3,375/$1,125. Need a Marker: Feb. 17, 3rd race, $776.25. ($5,276.25)

BB Horses—Ladro Di Fichi: Feb. 3, 7th race, $1,215; Feb. 11, 9th race, $787.50. ($2,002.50)

Black Fox Farm—Remembering Wilbur: Feb. 10, 1st race, $3,105.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—He Rolls: Feb. 19, 6th race, $3,375. Proper Attire: Feb. 18, 10th race, $5,400. ($8,775)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Clubman: Feb. 4, 5th race, $585; Feb. 20, 2nd race, $4,320. ($4,905)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rick Buckley—Open the Books: Feb. 10, 3rd race, $3,915.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Great Go Go: Feb. 12, 2nd race, $2,430. Tom Terrific: Feb. 3, 6th race, $2,295. ($4,725)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Dry Well: Feb. 3, 8th race, $1,080.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Congress Hall: Feb. 26, 2nd race, $810. Don't Tell Deren: Feb. 20, 6th race, $585. Super Accelerate: Feb. 5, 1st race, $1,980. ($3,375)

Bonita Farm—Never Done: Feb. 19, 3rd race, $900.

Shellaine Brown, Susan Baldrige, Horseshoe Valley and Treasure Stable—Going to the Lead: Feb. 4, 7th race, $2,790.

Jerome C. Burdick—Tenax: Feb. 25, 2nd race, $607.50.

Chanceland Farm—Full Irish: Feb. 19, 2nd race, $2,340.

Country Life Farm—Ace Nine Nine: Feb. 4, 5th race, $3,510. Response Time: Feb. 4, 8th race, $8,370; Feb. 24, 7th race, $9,450. ($21,330)

Country Life Farm and Atlantic Tide LLC—Camelia Rod: Feb. 12, 1st race, $517.50.

Country Life Farm, Paul Berube and Karen Linnel—Captain Quint: Feb. 12, 6th race, $7,290.

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Sweet Talia: Feb. 3, 4th race, $1,260.

Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Liquidator: Feb. 11, 8th race, $1,215.

Country Life Farm and Moonlit Malibu LLC—Esperannna: Feb. 10, 4th race, $810. Feb. 26, 6th race, $3,240. ($4,050)

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—Sapphire Beauty: Feb. 12, 1st race, $1,035.

Country Life Farm and Union Waters LLC—Moses Water: Feb. 10, 3rd race, $652.50.

Country Life Farm and Watrugonnadorosie LLC—Left Hand Thread: Feb. 26, 7th race, $5,940.

Country Life Farm and Winding Creek Farm—Luv Ya Bye Bye: Feb. 19, 6th race, $562.50.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2023

(through April 4)

1. Eastern Bay	$166,500	11. Brzina	$91,500
2. Fuhgeddaboudit	117,880	12. Princess Kokachin	90,360
3. Mit Mazel	116,020	13. Easy Action	90,200
4. Fille d'Esprit	110,000	14. Ournationonparade	85,800
5. Response Time	105,340	15. Al Loves Josie	83,800
6. Excellorator	104,190	16. Award Wanted	82,500
7. Coffeewithchris	103,750	17. All Threes	80,290
8. Alwaysinahurry	97,550	18. Going to the Lead	80,130
9. Liquidator	97,530	19. Torch of Truth	78,740
10. Dancing Sophia	95,150	20. Clubman	75,370

Country Roads Ltd.—My Flicker: Feb. 20, 8th race, $2,610. Utterly Enchanting: Feb. 17, 8th race, $2,295. ($4,905)

Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen—Thruster: Feb. 5, 2nd race, $517.50.

CRK Stable LLC—Excellorator: Feb. 4, 6th race, $7,830.

Crystal Park Stables Inc.—Brilliant Ice: Feb. 5, 6th race, $1,080; Feb. 20, 7th race, $6,480. ($7,560)

Dark Hollow Farm—Haleigh B: Feb. 17, 7th race, $1,080. Hot N Spicy Love: Feb. 10, 6th race, $2,430. Oxide: Feb. 26, 5th race, $3,510. ($7,020)

Dark Hollow Farm and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov—Combat Queen: Feb. 20, 8th race, $1,305.

Deer Creek Racing—Mo Fire: Feb. 4, 1st race, $540; Feb. 26, 6th race, $1,080. ($1,620)

Designated Hitters Racing—Voodoo Mama Juju: Feb. 18, 1st race, $4,860.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—Gormley's Gabriela: Feb. 18, 3rd race, $2,250.

Flying H Stables LLC—Minecrafter: Feb. 19, 5th race, $382.50.

Gainesway Thoroughbreds Limited—Born for Victory: Feb. 10, 1st race, $517.50.

Robert J. Gerczak—Hov Lane: Feb. 11, 6th race, $1,035.

Germania Farms—Omo Dada: Feb. 11, 3rd race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

Glenangus Farm LLC—Grand Manner: Feb. 26, 4th race, $1,035.

Maria M. Haire—Noah Chance: Feb. 12, 7th race, $7,290.

Nancy B. Heil—Karan's Notion: Feb. 26, 8th race, $1,575.

Highclere and Five Hellions Farm—Free Square: Feb. 5, 7th race, $2,970; Feb. 18, 5th race, $1,170. ($4,140)

Hillwood Stable LLC—Hello Hot Rod: Feb. 12, 8th race, $1,575.

Holly House Farm—Arden'sluckytobe: Feb. 20, 7th race, $2,160. Summer Odds: Feb. 17, 7th race, $2,160. ($4,320)

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—Shinelikeadiamond: Feb. 25, 1st race, $3,240.

Hot Silks Racing Stable LLC—If Then: Feb. 4, 1st race, $1,080.

Ann B. Jackson—Mine Run: Feb. 5, 1st race, $990.

Jagger Inc.—Chickieness: Feb. 18, 3rd race, $4,500; Muchacho Macho: Feb. 10, 6th race, $810. Parkerness: Feb. 26, 1st race, $5,940. ($11,250)

Jagger Inc. and Pete Mattson—Dialer: Feb. 10, 5th race, $1,620; Feb. 26, 7th race, $990($2,610)

Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Goldieness: Feb. 10, 9th race, $3,915/$1,305. ($5,220)

R. Larry Johnson—Despite Odds: Feb. 5, 2nd race, $1,035. Starstreet: Feb. 26, 1st race, $1,980. ($3,015)

Wendy M. Komlo—Holy Delite: Feb. 20, 9th race, $1,125.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Holy Synchronicity: Feb. 11, 7th race, $1,305; Feb. 24, 5th race, $2,610. Mailman's a Flyer: Feb. 4, 3rd race, $4,725; Feb. 18, 2nd race, $1,215. Stardust Ziggy: Feb. 11, 2nd race, $1,552.50. ($11,407.50)

Kenneth F. Lowe Jr.—Fowl Nation: Feb. 17, 5th race, $562.50.

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—No More Talk: Feb. 5, 7th race, $990.

Haralabos Maravelias—Nico Lucky: Feb. 10, 3rd race, $1,305.

Daniel E. Marconi—Bella Bettina: Feb. 20, 1st race, $1,260.

Elizabeth Martin—Tinseltown Tina: Feb. 3, 5th race, $990; Feb. 24, 3rd race, $5,940/$1,980. ($8,910)

Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable—Good Story: Feb. 20, 9th race, $562.50.

Charles C.D. McGill—Disputed Claim: Feb. 26, 1st race, $990.

Kevin P. Morgan—Fancy Princess: Feb. 3, 4th race, $630. Mavilus: Feb. 10, 8th race, $911.25. Rahmer: Feb. 12, 4th race, $3,780. ($5,321.25)

Murmur Farm—Bonded: Feb. 3, 9th race, $3,510.

Nancy Lee Farms—Eastern Bay: Feb. 18, 9th race, $13,500. The Thinker: Feb. 4, 2nd race, $3,375. ($16,875)

No Guts No Glory Farm—Fuhgeddaboudit: Feb. 17, 7th race, $6,480. Grass Cutter: Feb. 12, 3rd race, $1,125. ($7,605)

Clarke Ohrstrom—Jardani: Feb. 18, 2nd race, $2,430.

David W. Palmer—Laramore: Feb. 20, 6th race, $3,510.

Charles V. Parker—Forth: Feb. 10, 7th race, $4,320.

A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: Feb. 5, 9th race, $1,980; Feb. 25, 7th race, $5,940/$1,980. Wired In: Feb. 4, 2nd race, $1,125. ($11,025)

Avla R. Pitts—Scorestosettle: Feb. 25, 7th race, $990.

Joel Politi—Thunder Boss: Feb. 26, 9th race, $1,620.

R.C. Park Racing Stable Inc.—Waverley: Feb. 4, 9th race, $562.50; Feb. 25, 5th race, $562.50. ($1,125)

Randy Ridgely—Badger Tooth: Feb. 19, 8th race, $3,240.

Tim Ritchey and Janet Ritchey—Dancer's Melody: Feb. 3, 3rd race, $990; Feb. 17, 2nd race, $405. ($1,395)

Nancy M. Rizer and Eric A. Rizer—Princess Kokachin: Feb. 4, 8th race, $2,790; Feb. 24, 7th race, $3,150. ($5,940)

Rolling Meadows Farm—Pride of Payton: Feb. 5, 1st race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

Thomas Rooney—Coffeewithchris: Feb. 18, 4th race, $13,500.

Timothy J. Rooney—Ragtime Riches: Feb. 26, 7th race, $1,980.

Alexandro Rubim-Dias—Award Wanted: Feb. 18, 7th race, $4,500.

Shamrock Farm—Albertano: Feb. 25, 6th race, $3,510.

Skeedattle Associates—Best Choice Baby: Feb. 11, 5th race, $652.50.

Clare Sokolsky—Fortunata Italia: Feb. 3, 4th race, $3,780.

Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox—Ain't Da Beer Cold: Feb. 18, 6th race, $2,250.

Sweet Spirits Stables LLC—Fille d'Esprit: Feb. 18, 8th race, $4,500.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Circling the Drain: Feb. 20, 4th race, $7,290. Dulce Kiara: Feb. 17, 2nd race, $810. Feeling Woozy: Feb. 18, 4th race, $2,250. Frightland: Feb. 5, 6th race, $2,160. John Hall: Feb. 12, 7th race, $2,430. Your Analysis: Feb. 5, 9th race, $990. ($15,930)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Two Legends Farm—Titian Tyrant: Feb. 18, 1st race, $1,620.

Thomas L. Teal—Rad Paisley: Feb. 20, 7th race, $1,080.

James F. Thames—Irish Warlock: Feb. 17, 5th race, $1,125.

The Elkstone Group LLC—Plot the Dots: Feb. 5, 8th race, $1,395. Torch of Truth: Feb. 5, 8th race, $8,370. Vax a Nation: Feb. 11, 3rd race, $1,980. ($11,745)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Startwithabang: Feb. 5, 4th race, $1,440. Thataway: Feb. 10, 5th race, $4,860. ($6,300)

Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—That's Some Kiss: Feb. 11, 9th race, $1,575.

Walter N. Vieser II—Italian Dressing: Feb. 5, 4th race, $720. Torre Branca: Feb. 11, 6th race, $517.50. ($1,237.50)

David H. Wade—Rominski: Feb. 11, 4th race, $1,170.

Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Greenspring Mares LLC, Bowman and Higgins Stable and Gregory Caliwag—Local Motive: Feb. 24, 6th race, $1,305.

Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Rascally Rebel: Feb. 20, 5th race, $3,375/$1,125. Running River: Feb. 20, 5th race, $1,125. ($5,625)

John E. Williamson III—Ournationonparade: Feb. 18, 6th race, $4,500.

Willow Oaks Stable LLC—Under the Radar: Feb. 5, 6th race, $6,480.

Woodford Equine—Dreams Delivered: Feb. 19, 4th race, $1,170.

Dorothy E. Worton—No Me Digas: Feb. 26, 4th race, $517.50.

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Hov Lane: Feb. 11, 6th race, $345): Robert Gerczak.

BANDBOX (Dulce Kiara: Feb. 17, 2nd race, $270): Bandbox Syndicate.

BARBADOS (Albertano: Feb. 25, 6th race, $1,170): Shamrock Farm.

BLOFELD (Bonded: Feb. 3, 9th race, $1,170. Chickieness: Feb. 18, 3rd race, $1,500. Miss Casey: Feb. 10, 2nd race, $390. Pride of Payton: Feb. 5, 1st race, $1,980): Blofeld Syndicate—$5,040.

BOURBON COURAGE (Uncommon Valor: Feb. 5, 2nd race, $1,035; Feb. 12, 5th race, $1,080): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$2,115.

BUFFUM (Fancy Princess: Feb. 3, 4th race, $210. Shinelikeadiamond: Feb. 25, 1st race, $1,080): Buffum Syndicate—$1,290.

CAL NATION (Ournationonparade: Feb. 18, 6th race, $1,500): Cal Nation Syndicate.

CUBA (No Me Digas: Feb. 26, 4th race, $172.50): J&S Stables LLC.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Despite Odds: Feb. 5, 2nd race, $345. Summer Odds: Feb. 17, 7th race, $720. Utterly Enchanting: Feb. 17, 8th race, $765): R. Larry Johnson—$1,830.

DIVINING ROD (Born for Victory: Feb. 10, 1st race, $172.50. Camelia Rod: Feb. 12, 1st race, $172.50. Dry Well: Feb. 3, 8th race, $360. Liquidator: Feb. 11, 8th race, $405. Local Motive: Feb. 24, 6th race, $435. Rascally Rebel: Feb. 20, 5th race, $1,125. Sweet Talia: Feb. 3, 4th race, $420. Under the Radar: Feb. 5, 6th race, $2,160): Divining Rod Syndicate—$5,250.

DORTMUND (Never Done: Feb. 19, 3rd race, $300): Kaleem S. Shah.

FREEDOM CHILD (Ain't Da Beer Cold: Feb. 18, 6th race, $750. Fowl Nation: Feb. 17, 5th race, $187.50. Free Square: Feb. 5, 7th race, $990; Feb. 18, 5th race, $390. Mazel: Feb. 3, 8th race, $2,160. Tom Terrific: Feb. 3, 6th race, $765): Freedom Child Syndicate—$5,242.50.

FRIESAN FIRE (Mo Fire: Feb. 4, 1st race, $180; Feb. 26, 6th race, $360): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$540.

GOLDEN LAD (Disputed Claim: Feb. 26, 1st race, $330. Goldieness: Feb. 10, 9th race, $1,305. Mine Run: Feb. 5, 1st race, $330. Nico Lucky: Feb. 10, 3rd race, $435. Omo Dada: Feb. 11, 3rd race, $1,980. Oxide: Feb. 26, 5th race, $1,170. Rahmer: Feb. 12, 4th race, $1,260. Remembering Wilbur: Feb. 10, 1st race, $1,035. That's Some Kiss: Feb. 11, 9th race, $525): Golden Lad Syndicate—$8,370.

GREAT NOTION (Brilliant Ice: Feb. 5, 6th race, $360; Feb. 20, 7th race, $2,160. Fille d'Esprit: Feb. 18, 8th race, $1,500. Fuhgeddaboudit: Feb. 17, 7th race, $2,160. Good Story: Feb. 20, 9th race, $187.50. Great Go Go: Feb. 12, 2nd race, $810. Italian Dressing: Feb. 5, 4th race, $240. Karan's Notion: Feb. 26, 8th race, $525. My Flicker: Feb. 20, 8th race, $870. Noah Chance: Feb. 12, 7th race, $2,430. Rominski: Feb. 11, 4th race, $390. Tenax: Feb. 25, 2nd race, $202.50): Great Notion Syndicate—$11,835.

HOLY BOSS (Al Loves Josie: Feb. 11, 7th race, $2,610; Feb. 25, 8th race, $2,790. Crossland: Feb. 5, 9th race, $660; Feb. 25, 7th race, $1,980. Holy Delite: Feb. 20, 9th race, $375. Holy Synchronicity: Feb. 11, 7th race, $435; Feb. 24, 5th race, $870. Jardani: Feb. 18, 2nd race, $810. Thunder Boss: Feb. 26, 9th race, $540): Holy Boss Syndicate—$11,070.

IMAGINING (Badger Tooth: Feb. 19, 8th race, $1,080. Proper Attire: Feb. 18, 10th race, $1,800. Stardust Ziggy: Feb. 11, 2nd race, $517.50): Imagining Syndicate—$3,397.50.

IRISH WAR CRY (Feeling Woozy: Feb. 18, 4th race, $750. Full Irish: Feb. 19, 2nd race, $780. Irish Warlock: Feb. 17, 5th race, $375): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$1,905.

LONG RIVER (And Whistle: Feb. 5, 5th race, $1,620. Grass Cutter: Feb. 12, 3rd race, $375. Running River: Feb. 20, 5th race, $375): Long River Syndicate—$2,370.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Arden'sluckytobe: Feb. 20, 7th race, $720. Best Choice Baby: Feb. 11, 5th race, $217.50. Fortunata Italia: Feb. 3, 4th race, $1,260. Titian Tyrant: Feb. 18, 1st race, $540): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$2,737.50.

MOSLER (Billykus: Feb. 3, 1st race, $1,125. Captain Quint: Feb. 12, 6th race, $2,430. Esperannna: Feb. 10, 4th race, $270; Feb. 26, 6th race, $1,080. Hello Hot Rod: Feb. 12, 8th race, $525. Lady Mosler: Feb. 26, 9th race, $270. Luv Ya Bye Bye: Feb. 19, 6th race, $187.50. Moses Water: Feb. 10, 3rd race, $217.50. Need a Marker: Feb. 17, 3rd race, $258.75. Response Time: Feb. 4, 8th race, $2,790; Feb. 24, 7th race, $3,150. Sapphire Beauty: Feb. 12, 1st race, $345): Country Life Farm for Mosler Syndicate—$12,648.75.

NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: Feb. 4, 5th race, $195; Feb. 20, 2nd race, $1,440. Hot N Spicy Love: Feb. 10, 6th race, $810. No More Talk: Feb. 5, 7th race, $330. Torch of Truth: Feb. 5, 8th race, $2,790): Not For Love Syndicate—$5,565.

ORIENTATE (Mavilus: Feb. 10, 8th race, $303.75): Orientate Syndicate.

REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: Feb. 4, 7th race, $930): Redeemed Syndicate.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Ace Nine Nine: Feb. 4, 5th race, $1,170): Country Life Farm.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **June 2023** -

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Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey

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New Jersey-breds at OBS March

Two New Jersey-bred juveniles by Bucchero sold at the OBS March Sale after completing their under tack breezes in impressive fashion.

Hip #444, a filly by Bucchero out of Elusively, by Pioneerof the Nile, sold for $45,000 after working an eighth of a mile in 9.4 seconds. She is from the family of Colonel Sharp ($376,384), Sharp Cat ($2,032,575, winner of seven Grade 1 races, including the Acorn Stakes, Beldame Stakes, Ruffian Stakes and Santa Anita Oaks) and Royal Anthem (1,876,876). The filly was bred in New Jersey by Greg Kilka.

Hip #800, a filly by Bucchero out of the Exchange Rate mare Rate Change, sold for $140,000 after breezing a quarter of a mile in 21.1. Her dam had three wins at 3 and 4 with earnings of $88,823. The second dam, Commercialize earned $203,380 and is a sister to stakes winner Thunder Breeze ($267,200). Additional black type runners in the family include Jeblar Sez Who ($216,450), Racing Starflight, and Natural Seven who crossed the wire first in 11 races including the Maryland Million Turf Sprint Handicap and had career earning of $310,389. The filly was bred in New Jersey by Kelly Lupton.

New Jersey Gold Medal Horse Farm Program

Environmentally friendly farms give the consumer greater confidence in the environmental sustainability of agriculture and encourages public support for the industry. This award gives recognition to the most outstanding equine farms and their environmental sustainability and management.

Eligibility

All New Jersey horse farm owners are invited to submit an application for the award. Farms receiving the highest scores will receive a Gold Medal Equine Farm plaque to be displayed on their farm. Awards will be based upon environmental stewardship, general farm appearance, an implemented AWMP or CNMP, and adherence to the following points:

1. Controlling animal access to the waters of the State;

2. Storing manure at least 100 linear feet from surface waters of the State; "Water or waters of the State means the ocean and its estuaries, all springs, streams, and bodies of surface or ground water, whether natural or artificial, within the boundaries of the State or subject to its jurisdiction."

3. Applying manure using proper nutrient management practices;

4. Minimizing odors from manure storage and application areas;

FOLLOW or LIKE **NJBREDS** on.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
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5. Optimizing the beneficial use of nutrients from manure and bedding materials;

6. Having a biosecurity program in place to minimize disease risk.

How is the Selection Completed

The selection is completed by a pre-determined ranking process that requires both a producer application and an evaluative process.

Selection process

1. Gold Medal Application. Producers need to complete an application that includes general information about their farm (type, horse numbers, acreage, etc.), a copy of their AWMP/CNMP, and a self-assessment of their farm. A $100.00 application fee will be required of all applicants to go towards continuing the program.

2. Review. A team of reviewers will walk through the farm and make recommendations about the farm. These recommendations have two uses: first, to evaluate the farm for suitability for the program, second to point out any deficiencies. The review team will be made up of members from RCE, NJDA, NRCS, and any other appropriate groups such as might be represented on the USDA-NRCS Technical Committee.

3. The award program may be used for subsequent advertising or promotion for environmental stewardship in New Jersey. Horse farmers, who apply to participate in this program, if selected, agree to cooperate with promotional activities and make all reasonable efforts to maintain the level of environmental stewardship on their operations.

How the Judging Works

1.. Applications will be due August 1. These will be reviewed for completeness prior to judging.

2. Judging teams will visit farms during the month of September.

3. The judges' final ranking will be made and results given to the Rutgers University Equine Science Center and the NJDA Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources.

4. Results will be announced at the Equine Science Center Update.

5. Awards will be given at the New Jersey State Agriculture Convention.

6. Any previously awarded farm failing to maintain program standards will have their award revoked.

For more details, as well as a link to the application, please go to: https://go.rutgers.edu/ESC-GMHF

Ronald S. Dancer Memorial Scholarship

The Equine Science Center is happy to announce the first-ever application cycle for the Ronald S. Dancer Memorial Scholarship, due June 1, 2023, for this year.

The scholarship(s) will be awarded for the following academic year. Please see the application form link on the right, and the scholarship details below.

Rutgers Equine Science Center and the Department of Animal Sciences at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, are pleased to announce the availability of financial assistance to undergraduates majoring in Animal Sciences with a concentration in Equine Science.

Scholarships will be awarded annually to fulltime undergraduate Rutgers University students (including at least one incoming student).

Criteria include New Jersey residency, acceptance or current enrollment at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, academic merit, demonstrated interest in equine science, and demonstrated leadership and service to community, school, and to the horse industry. Scholarships may be renewed annually with the approval of the scholarship selection committee.

The Ronald S. Dancer Memorial Scholarship in Equine Science was created to honor the memory of a man who tirelessly served the public throughout his tenure as a New Jersey Assemblyman in the state legislature.

Assemblyman Dancer was a strong supporter of the New Jersey equine industry, agriculture in general, and of the Rutgers Equine Science Center. It is only fitting that this scholarship be awarded to a student who demonstrates leadership skills and community involvement following in Assemblyman Dancer's footsteps.

To apply for the scholarship, please go to: https://go.rutgers.edu/2023DancerScholarship

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To Apply for the scholarship, please go to: https://go.rutgers.edu/2023DancerScholarship

Equine Discounts for NTRA Members

Call 866-678-4289 or visit EquineDiscounts.com to start saving on the following brands for your farm!

John Deere offers substantial discounts on everything from mowers and tractors to GatorsTM, hay and construction equipment. • The MSRP Program – Professional operations can save up to 28% on select equipment • The Cash Bonus Program – All members can save up to $2,700 with vouchers that are stackable with special financing • Construction Equipment – All members can save up to 26% on select equipment

Big Ass Fans is committed to Energy Efficient Air movement and providing comfort to the equine industry. Equine members will receive up to a 25% discount on qualifying purchases for all Equine Facilities and Personal Residences.

Save up to 40% discount on Sherwin Williams paints, in-store products and wall coverings

ODP Business Solutions™ (formerly Office Depot) and Equine Discounts have partnered to provide exclusive benefits and savings on a wide selection of office products and services. ODP Business Solutions™ is here to support the success of your business.

You want great coverage at a great price. Farmers Insurance® has coverage options that you can customize and lots of ways to save with discounts and Policy PerksSM. Farmers offers a broad range of product offerings including Home, Auto, Business, Life and Recreational insurance. Save an average of $730 with your equine discount at Farmers Insurance today!

2023 New Jersey-Bred Stakes at Monmouth Park (June–August)

RACE DATE	*RACE NAME*	*AGE/SEX*	*DISTANCE*	*SURFACE*
6/4/2023	**$85,000 Smart N Classy H**	**F&M 3+**	**One Mile**	**Dirt**
6/11/2023	**$85,000 Friendly Lover H**	**3+**	**One Mile**	**Dirt**
7/8/2023	**$85,000 Jersey Girl H**	**F&M 3+**	**One Mile**	**Turf**
7/9/2023	**$85,000 Irish War Cry H**	**3+**	**One Mile**	**Turf**
8/27/2023	**$125,000 Charles Hesse III H**	**3+**	**One Mile and One Sixteenth**	**Dirt**
8/27/2023	**$100,000 New Jersey Breeders' H**	**3+**	**Six Furlongs**	**Dirt**
8/27/2023	**$100,000 Eleven North H**	**F&M 3+**	**Six Furlongs**	**Dirt**

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Membership Application

Member Information

NAME _____ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Membership Categories

☐ Breeder — A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.

☐ Owner — An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

☐ Associate — An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $65.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $100.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
265 Hwy 36
Suite 1R
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
(732) 542-8880
email: njbreds@gmail.com

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

June 2023

President's message

Congratulations to Nancy Shuford and Bill & Carrington Price for their horses reaching the winner's circle. Also, for all those who had horses make it to the track – kudos. Hats off to Bill Thompson for Cairo Consort winning the 2022 Sovereign Award Champion 2-year-old filly! Bill campaigned Cairo Consort last year before she was sold at the FTK November sale.

It's foal time and cuteness abounds. I want to thank Bill Thompson for sharing photos of his new Hard Spun colt and Lexitonian filly. We will be following these two future champions and wish them the best of luck.

Also, member Michael Stone is looking to rehome his broodmare Super Tap (KY) (2016, Super Saver out of Taptam, by Pleasant Tap). If interested, contact him at law.stone@yahoo.com.

–Rebecca

Hard Spun colt out of Coilean Bawn (by Pioneerof the Nile) born in February.

Lexitonian filly out of Harkness (by Harlan's Holiday) was born March 30.

CAIRO CONSORT – 2022 Sovereign Award winner for Champion 2-Year-Old Filly. Photo Credit: Michael Burns

Racing Review

Cainudothetwist (Americain out of Bourbon Twist, by Langfuhr) won at Aiken March 25 for breeders Bill and Carrington Price. The 7-year-old bay mare ran on the flat in a training race, going 1¼ miles on turf in 2:10, winning by 3 lengths.

Honorifique (Honor Code out of Doubled, by Exchange Rate) won at Keeneland April 23 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 6-year-old gray mare ran 7 furlongs on a fast track in 1:12.80. Running mid-pack in the four-path until the stretch, then moved into the five-lane, she aimed at the leader midstretch, gained the lead to win by 2¼ lengths.

After Eight (Into Mischief out of Classydame, by Blame) won at Keeneland April 23 for breeder Nancy Shuford. Breaking her maiden in only her second start, the 3-year-old bay filly ran 1 mile on the turf. Clearly the best, she set the pace from start to finish while maintaining a comfortable lead, challenged around the turn she drew off, then eased up to win by 2¼ lengths.

Gulfstream Way (Gemologist out of Clever Cookie, by Smart Strike) ran second at Aqueduct March 30 for breeder Denise Walsh. The 6-year-old bay gelding ran 1 mile on the fast track, coming in 9¾ lengths ahead of the show finisher.

Lil Miss Moonlight (City Light out of Sacred Luna, by Malibu Moon) ran second at Keeneland April 7 for owner Caroline Cooper in partnership. The 3-year-old bay filly ran 1⅛ miles on the turf, just missing the win by a head.

Allegheny Hero (Mr. Sidney out of Allegheny Red, by Roanoke) ran second at Charles Town April 14 for breeder and owner Clint Lowry. The 5-year-old bay gelding ran 4½ furlongs on a fast dirt track, finishing 8¾ lengths ahead of the next runner.

Flat Out Flying (Flat Out out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge) ran second Parx Racing April 19 for breeders Beth Muirhead and Frank Coniglio. The 8-year-old chestnut gelding ran 1 mile and 70 yards on a fast track, just missing the win by ¾ lengths, getting napped nearing the wire.

Double Tough Tiger (Tourist out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge) ran third April 2 at Camarero for breeder Beth Muirhead. The 6-year-old,dark bay gelding ran 1 mile on a muddy track.

Dannyhill (Mshawish out of Maggie Maggie, by Majestiperfection) ran third at Gulfstream Park April 21 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 6-year-old chestnut mare ran 5½ furlongs on a fast track.

Nabovo (Uncle Mo out of Preppy Rafaela, by Bernardini) ran third at Aqueduct April 23 for breeder Frank Batten. The 5-year-old bay colt ran 6 furlongs on a sloppy, sealed track.

Hitting the Board

March 25 – April 24, 2023

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
25-Mar	Cainudothetwist	Aiken	Bred by Bill & Carrington Price	**WINNER!**
30-Mar	Gulfstream Way	Aqueduct	Bred by Denise Walsh	2nd
2-Apr	Double Tough Tiger	Camarero Racetrack	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
7-Apr	Lil Miss Moonlight	Keeneland	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	2nd
14-Apr	Allegheny Hero	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	2nd
19-Apr	Flat Out Flying	Parx Racing	Bred by Beth Muirhead	2nd
21-Apr	Dannyhill	Gulfstream Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
23-Apr	Nabokov	Aqueduct	Bred by Frank Batten	3rd
23-Apr	Honorifique	Keeneland	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**
23-Apr	After Eight	Keeneland	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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Rebecca Montaldo,** president; **Jimmy Teal,** treasurer; Directors: **Elizabeth Houck, Vince Mathews, Chris Stiller

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

June 2023
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Vincenzo Tucciarone Sr.

2022 Iroquois Awards

Caravel on R & R in Kentucky last winter. Sara Gordon

Horse of the Year
Older Female, Female Sprinter & Turf Female
CARAVEL
Bred by Elizabeth M. Merryman

The Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1 over males was the biggest of five wins from eight starts for Caravel, Pennsylvania's richest state-bred of 2022. Racing exclusively in stakes, she started the year at Turfway with a win in, fittingly, the Queen Stakes, added Belmont's Intercontinental Stakes-G3 and Saratoga's Smart N Fancy, and finished her year with back-to-back scores at Keeneland in the Grade 3 Franklin and Breeders' Cup. She earned $930,983.

2-Year-Old Female, PA-Preferred Female & Leading Breeding Fund Recipient (Horse)
FLOR DE SOMBRA
Bred by Joseph Imbesi

Flor de Sombra was a winner of four of five starts at 2, with stakes wins at Parx (Miss Blue Tye Dye), Presque Isle (Finest City) and Penn National (Shamrock Rose), all by daylight margins, and a third in the Imply Stakes in her other outing. She ranked as the richest PA-Bred juvenile of the year with $320,000. A daughter of former PA sire Social Inclusion, she was the leading PA Breeding Fund Recipient with a total of $424,990 in purses and awards.

2-Year-Old Male & PA-Preferred Male
GORDIAN KNOT
Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Imbesi

Never off the board in four starts at 2, three of them wins, including Parx Racing's Prince Lucky Stakes by 2 lengths and Presque Isle's Mark McDermott Stakes by 4 1/4 lengths. By former PA sire Social Inclusion, Gordian Knot concluded his season with a third in the Pennsylvania Nursery and ranked as the leading PA-Bred 2-year-old male with earnings of $245,800.

3-Year-Old Female
MORNING MATCHA
Bred by Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC

The richest PA-Bred 3-year-old of 2022 with earnings of $406,000, Morning Matcha was a

Iroquois Awards continued from page 1

stakes winner at Parx in March, was second in the Grade 1 Cotillion and Aqueduct's Busanda, and finished third in the Grade 3 Delaware Oaks, Grade 3 Comely Stakes and Cathryn Sophia Stakes in her 10 starts.

3-Year-Old Male
NIMITZ CLASS
Bred by Arrowwood Farm

A winner in 2022 of six of 11 outings, Nimitz Class earned $232,854 to top all PA-Breds in the 3-year-old male division. A winner first time out at Penn National in January, he captured the Danzig in his stakes debut in June, and concluded his season with a win in Laurel's Robert T. Manfuso Stakes in December.

Older Male & Male Sprinter
FORTHELUVOFBOURBON
Bred by Hidden Acres 4-D Farm

A seven-time winner in nine 2022 starts, Fortheluvofbourbon was the richest older PA-Bred male while amassing $361,680. During a six-race win streak he won four stakes – the Page McKenney Handicap, Banjo Picker Sprint and Liberty Bell, all at Parx, and the Maryland Million Sprint at Laurel.

Turf Male
BUY LAND AND SEE
Bred by Joseph Imbesi

Buy Land and See returned to stakes competition midway through the 2022 season and scored a dominating, nearly 7-length victory in the With Anticipation Stakes on the turf at Penn National. He concluded his seven-start season with back-to-back stakes wins at Parx in the Alphabet Soup Handicap on the grass course and M.P. Ballezzi Appreciation Mile on the main track.

Broodmare of the Year
ZEEZEE ZOOMZOOM
Owned by Elizabeth M. Merryman
Dam of Caravel & Witty

Two of the first three foals out Lizzie Merryman's winning daughter of Congrats are 2022 PA-Bred stakes winners and finalists for Iroquois awards. Daughter Caravel became a millionaire and Grade 1 winner after a thrilling victory in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1 over males, one of her five stakes wins during the year. Witty scored in Laurel's Spectacular Bid Stakes in January, by nearly 8 lengths, and added a victory in Delaware Park's Stanton Stakes that summer.

Lifetime Achievement Award
MARK MCDERMOTT

Award of Merit
CANTER Pennsylvania

Thoroughbred Makeover Top PA-Bred
SAPPHIRE SURPRIZE
Bred by Jean Mary Walter

Leading Total
BREEDING FUND RECIPIENT
NORTHVIEW STALLION STATION INC.
$502,000

Leading Overall Breeder
of PA-Breds
BLACKSTONE FARM LLC
$2,650,848

Leading Breeder Award Recipient
BLACKSTONE FARM LLC
$432,292

Leading Stallion
WEIGELIA
Owned by WynOak Farm
$186,201

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Congrats to the Christian Black-bred Angel of Empire, who ran a strong third in the Kentucky Derby, finishing just 1½ lengths off the winner. I think we'll see him in the Belmont next. Congrats also to multiple graded stakes winner Caravel, bred by Liz Merryman who galloped in the Unbridled Sidney Stakes on Oaks Day. Next stop is Royal Ascot. Good Luck to both!

This year's banquet on May 12th was a big success. Congrats to the PA-Bred Champions of 2022 led by Horse of the Year Caravel. A well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award went to 35-year, retired Executive Secretary Mark McDermott, who explained just how far the organization has come since its beginnings in 1948. Our guest speaker, Barry Pearl, reviewed the importance of supporting our disabled jockey colony. Hope to see you next year.

The PA-Bred PA-Sired 2yo Stallion Series will be running its first two stakes in the $1,000,000 stakes series on August 21, PA Day at the Races. Don't forget about the $50,000 trainer bonus for the top three point-earning horses. Nominations for the 2023 series for 2yos, if not already nominated, are $1,000 for those purchased at a public or private sale by June 30th. After that the fee will be $5,000. You can go to pabred.com under 'Horses Nominated ' to see if your horse is on the list. If not, go to 'Forms' and print the nomination form. Don't have a PA-Sired PA-Bred? Contact a Pa Breeder by looking at our 2023 Stallion Directory.

Broodmares that were not in the state by Dec. 1, 2022, or within 14 days of a public sale (within 60 days of a sale outside the U.S.) must be bred back to a PA-Sire. We ask that you submit all broodmare domicile forms online. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Have a great 2023 and Go PA!!

2023 PENNSYLVANIA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

Monday, April 24	**$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP** **$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES**	3 & up, 7 furlongs 3 & up, f&m, 7 furlongs
Friday, June 2	**$100,000 DANZIG STAKES** **$100,000 NEW START STAKES** **$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES** **$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES**	3YO, 6 furlongs 3YO fillies, 6 furlongs 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf
Monday, June 26	**$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES** **$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES**	3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf 3 & up, f&m, 5 furlongs, turf
Monday, July 17	**$100,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES**	3YO fillies, 6½ furlongs
Monday, July 24	**$100,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES**	3 & up, f&m,1 mile 70 yards
Tuesday, July 25	**$100,000 HARD SPUN STAKES**	3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards
Monday, August 21	**$100,000 BANJO PICKER SPRINT STAKES** **$100,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP** **$100,000 MRS. PENNY STAKES** **$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES** **$100,000 DR. TERESA GAROFALO MEM. STAKES** **2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS STAKES:** **$100,000 WHISTLE PIG STAKES** **$100,000 MISS BLUE TYE DYE STAKES**	3 & up, 6 furlongs 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards 3 & up, f&m, 6 furlongs 2YO, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 5½ furlongs 2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 5½ furlongs
Saturday, Sept. 23	**$100,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP** **$100,000 PLUM PRETTY STAKES** **2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS:** **$150,000 PRINCE LUCKY STAKES** **$150,000 IMPLY STAKES**	3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf 3 & up, f&m, 1 mile 70 yards 2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6½ furlongs 2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6½ furlongs
Monday, Oct. 16	**$100,000 FINEST CITY STAKES**	2YO fillies, 6 furlongs
Tuesday, Oct. 17	**$100,000 MARK MCDERMOTT STAKES**	2YO, 6 furlongs
Tuesday, Oct. 24	**3 & up PA-SIRED PA-BRED STAKES:** **$100,000 JUMP START STAKES**	 3 & up, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs
Wednesday, Nov. 22	**$200,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES**	2YO fillies, 6 furlongs
Tuesday, Nov. 28	**$200,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES**	2YO, 7 furlongs
Wednesday, Dec. 27	**2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS:** **$200,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES** **$200,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES**	 2YO, 1 mile 70 yards 2YO fillies, 1 mile 70 yards

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association • www.pabred.com
701 East Baltimore Pike, Suite E, Kennett Square, PA 19348 • 610.444.1050

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PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through March 31, 2023

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	116,141	43,204	159,345	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	46,697	0	46,697
Richard N. Miller	87,395	17,388	104,782	Shirley A. Lojeski	44,963	0	44,963
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	100,955	100,955	R H Breeding LLC	44,425	0	44,425
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	65,006	30,038	95,045	Patricia L. Chapman	37,699	3,471	41,170
St. Omer's Farm	92,440	0	92,440	Angelo Zalalas	40,263	0	40,263
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	27,971	61,207	89,178	Susan C. Quick	39,984	0	39,984
Glenn E. Brok LLC	58,292	21,332	79,624	Peter Giangiulio	39,154	0	39,154
Warriors Reward	42,603	24,526	67,129	Barbara A. Rickline	29,224	4,780	34,004
Blackstone Farm LLC	65,128	0	65,128	Richard Molineaux	33,881	0	33,881
Maria M. Haire	57,815	5,047	62,862	Chuck Russo	26,665	5,803	32,468
William J. Solomon VMD	33,428	27,947	61,375	Emilie Bateman	30,912	0	30,912
LC Racing LLC	48,192	0	48,192	Godstone Farm LLC	30,410	0	30,410

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	55	61,207	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	34	7,602
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	110	44,250	Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	12	6,447
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	100	43,204	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	26	6,287
Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	57	30,038	Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	13	5,839
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	61	25,721	Il Villano	Chuck Russo	13	5,803
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	53	24,526	Last Gunfighter	William J. Solomon VMD	19	5,059
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	10	16,140	Eclipticalspraline	Maria M. Haire	8	5,047
Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	23	15,036	Xixixi	Barbara A. Rickline	12	4,780
Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	19	13,840	Bullsbay	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	13	4,671
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	31	13,835	Almasty	William J. Solomon VMD	2	3,550
Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	29	12,017	Smarty Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	6	3,471
El Padrino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	26	9,088	Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	13	2,713

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Disco Ebo *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	3	0	57,984	14,496	28,560	101,040
Beren *	Weigelia - Silmaril	Susan C. Quick	2	0	39,984	9,996	28,560	78,540
Date Night Kisses *	Weigelia - Tribal Verse	Emilie Bateman	2	0	30,912	7,728	22,080	60,720
Empress Deona *	Emperor Tiberius - Deona	Richard N. Miller	4	0	30,656	7,664	16,480	54,800
For The Dreamers *	Talent Search - Avery's Smile	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	3	0	25,872	6,468	18,480	50,820
Social Success *	Social Inclusion - Schuylkilla	Shirley A. Lojeski	3	0	36,216	8,580	5,040	49,836
Rolls Royce Joyce *	Uptowncharlybrown - Joyce's Angel	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	5	0	23,677	5,919	16,912	46,508
Far Mo Power *	Uncle Lino - J. D. Safari	Peter Giangiulio	1	0	20,832	5,208	14,880	40,920
Twisted Ride	Great Notion - Diva's Gold	Kasey K Racing Stable Tuffy LLC	4	0	25,344	0	13,920	39,264
Captain Chazz *	Weigelia - Sundays On the Bay	Glenn E. Brok LLC	3	0	19,488	4,872	13,920	38,280
Ninetypercentbrynn *	Weigelia - Amblin Easy	LC Racing LLC	1	0	19,488	4,872	13,920	38,280
Castilleja *	Lord Shanakill - La Mure	Norman George Lewis	2	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Diesel *	Peace and Justice - Really a Gem	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	2	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Mary Q *	Social Inclusion - Musket Mary	Michael M. Moore	1	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Harley's Charly *	Uptowncharlybrown - Harley Go Lightly	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	2	0	22,700	4,540	4,400	31,640
Ninetyprcentmaddie *	Weigelia - Amblin Easy	LC Racing LLC	2	0	24,000	6,000	0	30,000
Ninja Prize *	Warrior's Reward - Lemon Strudel	R H Breeding LLC	3	0	25,000	5,000	0	30,000
Tara's Talent *	Talent Search - Graemy	Glenn E. Brok LLC	2	0	15,232	3,808	10,880	29,920
Geebert *	Albert the Great - Gee Pari	Richard Molineaux	4	0	15,938	3,985	9,656	29,579
About the Multiple *	Jump Start - Erin's Song	Hope Hill Farm	3	0	14,784	3,696	10,560	29,040
Flight *	Peace and Justice - Rosedale Arch	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	3	0	15,781	3,399	9,712	28,892
Marion Grace *	Uptowncharlybrown - Angel Food	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	1	0	15,960	3,192	9,120	28,272
Peach Perfect	Cupid - George's Peach	Andrew Simoff	2	0	15,144	0	12,720	27,864
John Dutton *	Eastwood - Reconsider	Town and Country Farms Mgmt LLC	3	0	14,112	3,528	10,080	27,720

**Denotes PA-sired*

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

June 2023

Horsemen,

We are in full-swing *Triple Crown* Season here at Parx Racing. On Kentucky Derby Day our attendance at the track was 8,500, a great turnout for family-fun day with pony rides, concerts, food trucks, and much much more...

"Bark At The Parx" returns Belmont Day, June 10th - where basset hounds will break from the gate and run down the stretch! Last year was a great success, with all proceeds benefiting *Tri-State Basset Hound Rescue*.

PTHA Owners' Appreciation Day - Sunday (Father's Day) June 18th - The PTHA looks forward to hosting our annual Owners' Appreciation Day lunch. This day allows us to highlight members of the PTHA, thanking them for their participation within our association, and for making the PTHA & PARX all the better, plus LIVE RACING!

This year's PTHA's *Turning For Home* golf outing was not only highly anticipated but extremely well attended. On behalf of TFH and the PTHA, I would like to thank all Grade 1, Grade 2, and allowance sponsors. With your tremendous support, we are able to continue making Turning For Home the gold standard in racehorse retirement.

Good Luck At The Races

Jeff Matty, Jr.

PTHA Executive Director

THANK YOU!

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RR Robert Reid Racing Stable

Dr. Jason Ginn
Dr. Alexandra Curtiss

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY
JUNE 10

BARX AT PARX / BELMONT STAKES DAY

ENJOY LIVE RACING,
FREE FAMILY FUN & MORE!

SUNDAY
JUNE 18

PTHA OWNER'S APPRECIATION DAY

PTHA PRESIDENT'S CUP $75,000

ENJOY LIVE RACING,
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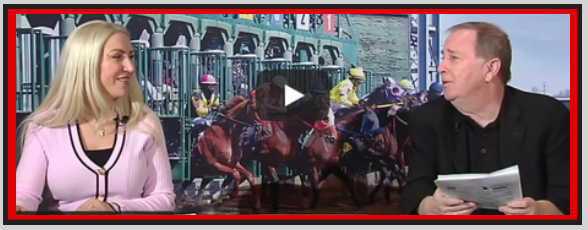

Join hosts Dick Jerardi and Dani Gibson for the latest in Thoroughbred news, behind the scenes access, and more, every Saturday at 10 am on PHL-17!

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South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

Racing Across the Nation

The period between March 20 and April 20 was quiet for graduates of South Carolina training centers in search of the winner's circle following stakes races.

Gaslight Dancer, a graduate of Cary Frommer's breaking program in Aiken, did prove best in the Palisades Stakes at Keeneland April 16. This 3-year-old son of City of Light raced in mid-pack early on. He gradually advanced taking the lead in the stretch and in a drive, hit the finish line 1½ lengths clear of the rest.

Private Creed, who was developed in Aiken by Marcus and Crystal Ryan, finished fifth in the Palisades. He is a multiple stakes winner, having earned $625,756, and was named the 2022 Aiken-Trained Horse of the Year.

From the Desk of...

... SCTOBA member **Pierre Manigault** experienced the thrill of watching his horse, Cape Gentleman, in the Grand National at Aintree, England, April 15. Unfortunately Cape Gentleman suffered a career ending injury during the race but is able to return to the U.S. for a well-deserved retirement.

... Franklin "Goree" Smith's Elloree, SC-based stallion **Done Talking** sired two winners recently. The Smith-bred Tilted Tiara, a 4-year-old filly, won at Penn National March 30. The 3-year-old filly Out of Luck, also bred by Smith, broke her maiden at Laurel Park in her third career start April 16.

... **Sweetie**, a 5-year-old mare and a graduate of Randy and Kala Rentz's training program in Erhardt, S.C., broke her maiden in her career debut in a maiden special weight at Aqueduct April 6.

Landmark day at Carolina Cup

The Carolina Cup Races took place at Springdale Race Course in Camden on Saturday, April 1. The weather was not promising when people woke up that morning. The sky was filled with clouds and rain was falling. Fortunately, the skies cleared in the morning, and it turned out to be a beautiful day for race goers.

Trainer Leslie Young had a big day saddling three winners. Lumberjack, owned by Thomas Rice and ridden by Mikey Hamill, won a Maiden Claiming Hurdle by a head. In the next race, Young put the tack on The Hero Next Door, owned by Michael Smith and piloted by David England, to win the Dale Thiel Maiden Hurdle. The Hero Next Door was much the best, winning by 19 lengths!

The team of Leslie Young and David England also captured the day's feature, the $50,000 The Carolina Cup with Caramelised, owned by Sharon Sheppard. Caramelised, making his first start in the United States, trailed the leader after jumping the final fence by 3 lengths but came on in the race to the wire, finishing a length in front.

Ricky Hendriks, who trains both steeplechasers and flat horses, saddled his 700th winner in the Kirkover-Woodward Cup Handicap. Fightinirishtabit, owned by Daniel Denefrio and ridden by Harry Beswick, led wire-to-wire crossing the finish line 3½ lengths in front. This was his fourth win for his connections.

The wife and husband team of trainer Kate Dalton and rider Bernie beat the boys in the C.P. and Edith Du Bose Cup with the mare Met in Miami owned by Joe Fowler. Met in Miami was making her third start over jumps after a 12-race career on the flat. Prominent throughout, Met in Miami won by 1½ lengths.

The final race of the day was a Training Flat race. Taylor Kingsley won her fourth race in a row, riding Cibolian to victory by a hard fought nose for owner Hudson River Farms LLC. Cibolian is trained by Taylor's father, SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley.

Young South Carolina riders on the rise

South Carolina-bred jockey Taylor Kingsley, the 17-year-old daughter of SCTOBA members Arch and Wendy Kingsley, has had a successful campaign riding in point-to-point and flat training races this year. She has won three point-to-point races run at Rappahanock, Warrenton and Old Dominion. Taylor rode Canudothetwist, owned and trained by her father Arch Kingsley, to victory in the flat training race in Aiken, and Cibolian for Hudson River Farms LLC at the Carolina Cup Races. Cibolian is also trained by Arch Kingsley. Arch won 130 races as a jump jockey during his career.

Mell Boucher, the daughter of steeplechase trainers Lilith and Richard Boucher, has established a steeplechase jockey career on the rise. In March, at the Warrenton Hunt Point-to-Point, Mell won three races with Tease and Seize in an open hurdle, Connagh's Quay in an amateur/novice rider hurdle and Dublini in a flat race.

While born in Pennsylvania, 20-year-old Boucher grew up in Camden. Mell began riding on the point-to-point circuit

in 2018 and at National Steeplechase Association meets in 2019. Boucher has also traveled to Ireland this year to ride over hurdles at Cork.

Another South Carolina-bred upcoming rider is Eliza Edwards. Eliza grew up in Camden and is the daughter of Toby Edwards, the executive director of the Carolina Cup Races. Edwards won 41 races during his career as a steeplechase jockey before retiring in 2012.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Brother Aron	Elloree Training Ctr	03/20/23	Will Rogers Downs	Allowance
Button Boy	Kirkwood Stables	03/22/23	Fair Grounds	Allowance
High Mounte	Arch Kingsley	03/25/23	Aiken Steeplechase	Handicap
Defense Wins	Kirkwood Stables	03/26/23	Rillito	Allowance
Dancing Sophia	Travis Durr Training Ctr	03/26/23	Aqueduct	Allowance
Beren	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	03/27/23	PARX	Allowance
Midnight Worship	Aiken - Cary Frommer	03/28/23	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Gullane	McCuthchen Training Ctr	03/28/23	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Gatto Be Proud	Aiken - R. Hammond	03/30/23	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Beverly Park	McCuthchen Training Ctr	03/31/23	Charles Town	Starter Allowance
Asluckwouldhaveit	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	03/31/23	Penn National	Allowance
Read On	Elloree Training Ctr	03/31/23	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
Golden Gulley	C. Frommer/Kirkwood Stables	04/01/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Met in Miami	Kate Dalton	04/01/23	Carolina Cup Races	Maiden Hurdle
Get Smokin	Custom Care - D. Freyer	04/02/23	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
Ambitieuse	Travis Durr Training Ctr	04/02/23	Tampa Bay	Allowance
Domitia Lucilla	Custom Care - D. Freyer/Kirkwood Stables	04/03/23	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Brother Aron	Elloree Training Ctr	04/05/23	Will Rogers Downs	Allowance
Sweetie	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	04/07/23	Aqueduct	Maiden Special Weight
Jayjaydee	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	04/08/23	Charles Town	Starter Allowance
Irish Exit	Travis Durr Training Ctr	04/11/23	PARX	Allowance
Social Success	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	04/12/23	PARX	Allowance
All Threes	Elloree Training Ctr	04/13/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Beverly Park	McCutchen Training Ctr	04/14/23	Charles Town	Starter Allowance
Italian Dressing	Elloree Training Ctr	04/14/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Desser Duke	Travis Durr Training Ctr	04/15/23	Keeneland	Allowance
Thegirlfromireland	Travis Durr Training Ctr	04/16/23	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
GASLIGHT DANCER	Aiken - Cary Frommer	04/16/23	Keeneland	Palisades S

VIRGINIA

GREEN UP NAMED 2002 VIRGINIA-BRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AT MAY 5TH AWARDS NIGHT

The Virginia Thoroughbred Association's annual Awards Night took place trackside May 5th at Great Meadow on a gorgeous evening just hours before the Virginia Gold Cup Steeplechase race program was scheduled the next afternoon. Awards for 2022 performances were given out in 11 different categories and event co-hosts were VTA Executive Director Debbie Easter and VEA VP of Strategic Planning Jill Byrne.

Honors for 2022 Virginia-Bred Horse of the Year — and Three-Year-Old Filly Champion — went to Green Up, bred by Robin Richards. The Upstart filly broke her maiden impressively at Gulfstream then reeled off three additional wins including big scores in the Boiling Spring Stakes at Monmouth and in the Cathryn Sophia Stakes at Parx.

Gigante, bred by Ann Mudge Backer and Smitten Farm, was named Two-Year-Old Colt Champ while the Freshman Filly Champ trophy went to Whichwaze, bred by Old Chapel Farm, LLC. The former broke his maiden in New Kent then went on to win the Kitten's Joy Stakes on Virginia Derby Day. The latter broke her maiden at Woodbine in August and earned a solid runner-up next out in the P.G. Johnson Stakes at Saratoga.

2022 Virginia-Bred Three-Year-Old champ Determined Kingdom won Colonial's Punch Line Stakes, placed in Turfway's Prevue and Animal Kingdom Stakes, and in Saratoga's Mahony Stakes. The bay gelding was bred by Audley Farm Equine.

Repo Rocks, Virginia-Bred Older Horse Champ, competed in ten stakes in 2022. He prevailed in the Lets Give Thanks Stakes at Parx and placed in another three stakes at New York tracks — the Grade 2 John Nerud, Grade 3 Toboggan and Grade 3 Tom Fool Handicap.

Largent, 2020 Virginia-bred Horse of the Year, was named Best Turf Horse 0f 2022. The Into Mischief gelding competed twice at Colonial, winning the Edward P. Evans Stakes and finishing second in the Bert Allen. The 6-year-old was bred by Lazy Lane Farms, Inc.

Chambeau, who did not start racing until the age of five, was named Virginia-Bred Turf Mare Champ. Bred and owned by Sam English II, she broke her maiden at Colonial in the Tyson Gilpin Stakes and later in the year, won a Pimlico allowance.

True Valour, with career earnings of $690,237, was named Virginia-Owned Champion based on a trio of solid outings. Larry Johnson's 8-year-old Kodiac horse won the King Leatherbury Stakes in Maryland and placed in both the Grade 2 Troy Stakes at Saratoga and Grade 1 Jaipur Stakes at Belmont.

Top Virginia-Certified Horse was Wellspring Stable's Leave No Trace who spent her residency at Stevica Djuric's Sport Horse Farm in Blacksburg. She was purchased as a yearling by Djuric, Pat Neusch and Anne Bonda Hartman in early 2021 and resold later that year. As a two-year-old, the Outwork filly broke her maiden at Saratoga and won the Grade 1 Spinaway Stakes on closing weekend.

Susan Cooney received honors as Top Virginia-Based Trainer for the third time in six years. After producing her highest earnings total in 2021, she topped that by $20,000 in 2022. She was seventh leading trainer in starts at Colonial Downs and courtesy of horses like Fionnbharr and Island Philo, finished 15th in the trainers standing there by wins.

Amy Moore (South Gate Farm), who bred early Kentucky Derby favorite Forte, was named Virginia Breeder of the Year. Though not a Virginia-Bred, Forte was raised at Amy's farm in Millwood before she sold him as a weanling at the 2020 Keeneland November sale. In 2022, Forte won the Grade 1 Hopeful Stakes and Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile. In January, he captured an Eclipse Award as 2022 Champion Two-Year-Old Colt.

SCENES FROM THE VTA AWARDS NIGHT AT GREAT MEADOW ON MAY 5, 2023

Jill Byrne presented Robin Richards and Frank Heyman an award for Green Up, the 2022 Virginia- Bred Horse of the Year.

Debbie Easter awarded Jonathan Smart hardware for the 2022 Virginia-Owned Champion, True Valour.

The annual VTA Awards Night takes place at Great Meadow in The Plains, host site of the Virginia Gold Cup Steeplechase Races which are held the following day.

Jill Byrne awarded Andrew Motion for Whichwaze --- the 2022 Virginia-Bred Two-Year-Old Filly Champion

VTA Executive Director Debbie Easter presented Terrance Lewis for Leave No Trace, the Virginia-Certified Horse of the Year.

2022 Virginia-Based Trainer of the Year, Susan Cooney pictured with jockey Victor Carrasco after winning a July 26 race at Colonial Downs.

Debbie Easter gave Hunter Merek an award for 2022 Virginia-Bred Two-Year-Old Colt Champion, Gigante.

Jill Byrne awarded Clayton Ryan for Repo Rocks, the 2022 Virginia-Bred Older Horse Champion.

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter June 2023

Staking Claim to Number One

By Jeff Gilleas

Lucylou Who takes the Original Gold.

ORIGINAL GOLD STAKES

The first stake race of the year often releases a variety of pent-up competitive emotions; hopefully manifesting in a productive outlook towards the future. With added-money events, heightened pressure is carried to the starting gate, especially by those runners exiting months of pantheon level inactivity.

A deep field of 10 West Virginia-bred franchise players tangled for supremacy in the $75,000 Original Gold Stakes, at 7 furlongs, with **Lucylou Who**, a daughter of Sky Mesa out of stakes winner R C's Daisyduke, by Yes It's True, emerging victorious for owner Robert Cole Jr. and trainer Emanuel 'Mike' Geralis. There's a sentimental attachment by Cole for Lucylou Who, inherent in the family lineage on the dam's side.

R C's DaisyDuke, owned and bred by Cole, earned $151,775, while her mother Rain Song successfully campaigned for him from 2005-2007. It's a safe assumption to conclude Rain Song was one of the quickest local horses to ever peer through a bridle, either male or female.

Wins at the abbreviated distance of 2 furlongs in the Rocket Man and Fast N' Furious Stakes at Calder Park along with numerous 4½-furlong clockings in 51 seconds and change at Charles Town corroborate that opinion. Desirable conditions allowed the clubhouse apron to be packed Saturday evening, April 15, as enthusiastic fans witnessed Grams Racing Stable's Moonlit Shadow dart to the early advantage, pursued by a rated Lucylou Who.

Setting measured fractions, the distaff duo preserved daylight between themselves and their nearest rivals until the far turn. At the urging of jockey Carlos Lopez, the 6-5 favorite smoothly responded, striding well clear through the lane to register her initial stakes triumph.

Runnerup, and lone 3-year-old in the race, Xanthe – defying conventional wisdom – drew in from the also eligible list, tested more seasoned opposition, and did her connections proud. The chestnut filly by Aldrin out of Roche, is bred by Anne Kilbourne and owned and trained by Gerasimos Moschonas.

Moonlit Shadow held well for third-place honors.

Coastal Mission held off No Change to score in the Confucius Say.

CONFUCIUS SAY STAKES

In horse racing, nothing is obtained individually. It is commitment and collaboration that allows a horse, an owner, a trainer and a breeder to rise to the level of most accomplished. On Saturday night, April 22, the yardstick to West Virginia-bred greatness was the $75,000-added Confucius Say Stakes.

Competing for the inflated target over less than ideal conditions, a sloppy track due to steady morning rain, it did not discourage the fascinating sub-plot, as a maximum field of 10 aristocratic runners battled. **Coastal Mission**, a son of Great Notion out of Smart Crowd, which makes him a full brother to Lewisfield ($535,264), found his margin of victory dwindling near the finish line to longshot No Change, but strong left-handed encouragement by jockey Denis Araujo ensured another stakes win for his hallmark stallion.

This race may have produced more questions than answers, as two-time West Virginia-bred Horse of the Year Muad'dib, a mortal like favorite at 5-2, appeared amped up for his 2023 debut, only to lack ammunition late to sustain his trademark bid.

Free Sailin, last year's champion 3-year-old colt/gelding, set a pressured pace over Coastal Mission, but on this misty night found the normal fertile hunting grounds at Charles Town not to his liking.

Coastal Mission is a Coleswood Farm homebred trained by Jeff Runco. Well drawn (post 10) to use his natural early speed, the 4-year-old notched his seventh win in 12 career tries. Physically, he has yet to achieve a swan-like metamorphosis to equal his broad male sibling, however mentally he has mastered this strenuous game.

CLIMBING THE GENETIC TREE

I've always maintained that unlike baseball, where one at bat doesn't define your season or football where a 10-yard completion doesn't suddenly land you in the HOF, horse racing seems to be able to assign consequential value to an individual race or a finite set of contests. For Elizabeth Meehan, the period of April 20 thru April 22 supported her drive for generational accomplishment, while intensifying family togetherness.

On Thursday, April 20, **Orangeburg**, by Windsor Castle out of Salony, swept to command at the half-mile pole, and went on register an 11¾-length victory over his West Virginia-bred challengers. Owned,

trained and bred by the matriarch of the family, the dominating win touched off the beginning of a homebred campaign towards attainment.

Checking in third for team Meehan (son Elias and daughter Megan), was Pettyforurthoughts, a daughter of Windsor Castle out of Landon Did It. While making the entry for Orangeburg, Meehan commented that she had sought a spot to run her filly against the same gender, but after several failed attempts decided to give the boys a try.

The next race on the program evoked a tightrope of emotions, as O'Rigsby barreled down the stretch in the 7-furlong maiden special weight affair, allowing Elizabeth and her modest stable to hit the multiple-win plateau on the weekday card. The gelded son of Upstart out of She's Grumpy, O'Rigsby was led into the winner's circle by Elizabeth's longtime husband and blacksmith extraordinaire, Jason.

Unfortunately, he didn't get to share in the family photo the previous race since his multi-talented services were needed to bring O'Rigsby from the barn to the saddling enclosure.

Continuing to confirm that the well being of those horses in her care are of paramount importance, with a dash of contrarian luck, Noid – a son of Windsor Castle out of Caller What U Want – bothered leaving the starting gate, picked up the chase late, steadily gaining on the unofficial winner. After some tense moments in the stewards stand, Icing, a son of Nyquist out of Honey Chile and a $300,000 OBS 2-year-old purchase,was disqualified for his infraction, awarding Noid the first prize money.

Normally pink is the color we associate with the Meehan Racing Stable, but thus far in April the power of green is in vogue.

"A good trainer can hear a horse speak to him. A great trainer can hear him whisper" – Monty Roberts

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Chasing
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The black type pedigree of the Kingsley Clan

By Betsy Burke Parker

Study the pedigree page of this steeplechase clan.

Arch's father, mother and brother all claimed multiple Virginia point-to-point titles. Arch Jr. himself was two-time National Steeplechase Association champion rider. His aunt and uncle are directly tied to this year's early Kentucky Derby favorite, and his wife is pretty much responsible for the footwear-of-choice for half the thoroughbred horsemen in America. In short, they're tied tight to thoroughbred racing.

A Kingsley catalog page would be filled with black type.

It always pointed to steeplechase.

NSA champion rider in 1997 and 1999, Arch Kingsley Jr. rode his first race in 1993 – Chati's Key for mother Kassie, getting his first winner at Potomac point-to-point in 1994 – Awesome Tan for Tim Hansen. His first winner under rules was Come On Gerald that fall for Pete Aylor. He's ridden 147 winners (point-to-point and NSA) from 825 mounts to date.

As a trainer, Kingsley has saddled 105 winners from 686 starters, including three Carolina Cup stakes winners, most recently Show Court in 2017.

He learned a lot about training horses when he worked for Hall of Famers Jonathan Sheppard and Bill Mott before setting up his training business in Camden in 2005.

Arch felt an affinity to the South Carolina town he credits to his headline wins there (the 1998 Carolina Cup on Master McGrath, the 1999 Colonial Cup with Ninepins, the Carolina Cup in 2000 with Invest West and the Colonial Cup in 2000 on Romantic) and to a tangential link from his father Arch Kingsley, who'd ridden his legendary point-to-point champion Lenoso in the Carolina Cup when it was a timber race in the early '60s.

Arch Kingsley, Jr. after the second of two wins at the 2023 Iroquois Steeplechase Races *©Tod Marks*

Arch says he's thrilled to be giving a leg up to a third generation of Kingsleys this spring. Though as much as he's eager for daughter Taylor to find her path as a race rider, Arch has cultivated a kind of insightful Zen patience in the process.

He wants her to be in it for the long haul, like the rest of the Kingsleys, he says.

"When you live this life, if you take care of yourself, honestly, you can ride 'til your 30s, 40s, and way beyond," Arch notes.

"Look at Paddy Neilson – he's a perfect example, so stylish and good as a rider into his 60s. To me, people like Charlie Fenwick and Paddy Neilson set the bar for how long you can do this and do it well."

Arch also credits Taylor's mother, Wendy, for adding a unique degree of mental coaching that he believes ensures their daughter's growing ardor for race riding.

"I was lucky to have Wendy help me when I was riding," Arch says. "She's the daughter of professional, all-but-Olympic level skiers, and she brought a level of sports psychology that helped me see through the fog and focus on re-centering myself, power through the distractions.

"I never would have enjoyed the success I did without her help.

"Wendy would talk me through the high highs and the low lows. You realize, okay, there's more at play here than some of these more immediate fears and problems. If you felt like you're losing your way, you focus on (the things) you know that you know how to do, and that you do well. I know how to breathe, I know how to balance on the back of a horse, I know how to make a horse happy, I know how to help a horse relax.

"It's helpful to have someone there to remind you to put one foot in front of the other. Wendy did it for me, and now she's doing it for Taylor."

Wendy Fletcher Kingsley learned her way around sports psychology growing up with ski coach parents in New London, New Hampshire, near what she calls a "brown-bagger ski area" – a smaller mountain than resort towns Killington or Stowe. Both parents were elite level downhill skiers and coaches.

She'd taken up riding around age 10 when three dry winters in New England left the Fletcher kids without much skiing to keep them fully occupied.

She filled the gap with horses.

Wendy embraced her "new" sport – eventing, hooked up with the national Young Riders program and moved to Virginia in 1988 to train with Olympian David O'Connor.

She competed to the advanced level and won the Markham Trophy as highest-placing young rider at the Fair Hill 3*. She was long-listed by the U.S. Equestrian Team.

While in Middleburg, Wendy galloped at the training center for Don Yovanovich and others, and she met Arch Kingsley, who eventually became her husband.

When the couple moved to Camden, she got a job breaking young horses for Mickey Preger; one of her most "famous" mounts turned out to be eventual multiple graded stakes winner and sire Distorted Humor. "I'd love to take credit for everything he went on to do," Wendy says with a laugh, "but he was just 'that 2-year-old I rode in the fifth set,' nothing else stood out about him back then."

Wendy and Arch married in 2000.

In addition to riding, Wendy worked at the National Steeplechase Museum in Camden and as marketing director for the Carolina Cup.

Her family's Fletcher Ltd. was a shoe importer and sales company in New Hampshire; in the mid-1990s, Wendy helped spearhead their becoming sole U.S. distributors for Blundstone boots out of Australia.

With daughter Taylor riding races now, Wendy says she's been able to bring out her sports psychology buzzwords once again.

"I'd always found it bizarre that there's no such thing as a "coach" for a jockey. Dressage riders, show riders, barrel racers have coaches. Tennis players, every other major sport. But not jockeys.

"I think it would help a lot of people a whole lot to have a coach to discuss their performance, to help them be mentally fit" as much as they are physically fit.

"It's always situational, discussing what happened," whether in a race, or a training hiccup, or something interpersonal.

"Sometimes it's just getting out of your own head. Someone is telling me about this thing that went wrong, this thing they did wrong. I try to help re-focus them to relax and tell me all the things that went right.

Wendy, Arch and Taylor Kingsley at the 2023 Aiken Steeplechase Races. *©Tod Marks*

"About all those tiny choices that made everything else go right.

"Sometimes you just need to consider the fact that you're actually very good at this sport. It's human nature to focus on the negative. Shift the focus away from that 'should'a been but wasn't' to 'that was an overall good performance' and you help the situation."

Taylor Kingsley, 17, is a senior at Camden High. She's been earning dual high school and college credits this year. This term, she is able to complete her final class – U.S. History 1877-Present, online, managing her schedule to be able to ride out for her father in the mornings. It also allowed her to take a six-week working holiday, part of a TGSF-sponsored training trip to Ireland riding and schooling with trainer Shark Hanlon.

Taylor has won three training flat races under rules.

She expects to race over fences soon, though at 115, she's thinking she might stay light enough to ride on the flat. Several steeplechase riders and trusted advisors have told her that this would be a great way to gain experience and strength.

"It comes down to your fundamentals. Arch says you should be prepared enough that you can 'just reach into your tool box and pull out the right tool' because you've done your homework. You can call on your basics, because that's the most important thing."

George Kingsley rode 25 winners from 150 starters 1995-2002, his first winner, point-to-point and sanctioned, was Mordane for Tim Hansen. In 1998, George won both the owner-rider hurdle and owner-rider timber titles in Virginia – with Murray's Ruler and Awesome Tan.

His wife, **Karen Nutt** was an "A" pony clubber, event rider and rode a handful of runners on the flat, over hurdles and over timber in the late 1990s. Today, Karen operates a busy hunt, training and sales barn near Middleburg, Virginia. In addition to working with Karen, George manages a large estate near The Plains focused on conservation and renewing native habitat. He formerly managed the Oak Spring estate developed by the late Paul Mellon.

Archibald Johnston "Arch" Kingsley died in 2015 at age 87.

He was the owner and trainer of Virginia point-to-point Horse of the Year Lenoso in 1964, 1968 and 1969.

He won the Seven Corners Owner-Rider series in 1964 and was 1976 Virginia Point-to-Point leading rider. He trained 1976 champion hurdler Bull Run Draft.

Arch senior rode races 1966-1977.

He was joint-master of the Middleburg Hunt in the mid-1960s.

Kassie Chatfield Taylor Kingsley rode on the Virginia circuit 1967 to 1976, earning ladies' timber titles in 1968 and '69.

She'd grown up in the farm country around Purcellville and Waterford in Loudoun County, Virginia. Her grandfather, Moncure Lyon, was credited with delivering the first residential and widescale commercial electricity to the region through his Loudoun Light and Power Company.

In 1969, Kassie became part of history – it was the first time women were allowed to ride under rules over fences, and Kassie was first, riding over timber at the Middleburg Spring Races.

Kassie says it was a literal breakthrough. "One day I remember Arch and George were telling Blythe Miller (NSA champ in 1994 and '95) that 'you know, mom made this possible for you.'

"They were sorta joking. But, back then, it was no joke. Women literally weren't allowed to ride under rules until that year.

"People don't remember that, but it's true."

Kassie Kingsley's brother, **Wayne Chatfield Taylor**, and wife **Susan Thomas Chatfield Taylor**, are major commercial thoroughbred breeders through their Morgan's Ford Farm in Front Royal, Virginia. Their most recent notable is Queen Caroline, a Virginia-bred daughter of Blame, dam of pre-Kentucky Derby favorite, Forte.

— Classifieds —

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— Looking Back —

75 years ago

■ Maryland's spring racing season was hampered by poor weather (19 of 26 days during the Havre de Grace and Pimlico meets were run on off tracks), but enlivened by great performances.

"Calumet Farm's Citation, growing steadily in public estimation as one of the 'greats' of our time, displayed his speed on three occasions in Maryland," wrote Don Reed. The third time was the Preakness, of which Humphrey Finney noted in the May 15 entry of The Editor's Saddlebag: "A grand day of racing weather, with a great horse in Citation a very easy winner of the Preakness, over only three game enough to try him."

Maryland-breds were successful in Pimlico stakes, led by King Ranch's Scattered, a 10-length winner of the Pimlico Oaks. By Whirlaway out of Imperatrice, Scattered was foaled and raised at Stadacona Farm by Mrs. C.W. Williams for W.H. LaBoyteaux. After being prepped in New Jersey for the yearling sales, Scattered was sold at Saratoga to Robert J. Kleberg of King Ranch for $23,000.

Maryland-breds were also winning at Jamaica in New York, reported Joe Palmer, who saw Miss Disco and Kitchen Police, both bred by Alfred Vanderbilt but racing for other stables, finish first and third in the Interborough.

Scattered, the second of 16 foals for top stakes performer Imperatrice and a half-sister to Secretariat's dam Somethingroyal, would add the Coaching Club American Oaks to her tally. Her foals included Alabama Stakes winner Here and There.

■ Stymie, the world's leading money winner with $844,760 and second in Pimlico's Dixie, was expected to join the Maryland breeding ranks at Stymie Manor Farm in Sparks upon his retirement. The busy breeding farm, formerly known as Cannaday, was owned by Stymie's trainer Hirsch Jacobs and Isadore Bieber, who took it over the previous year.

Stymie retired the next year at age 8 with earnings of $918,485, but the Hall of Famer never stood at the farm named for him, instead going to Kentucky and California.

■ Photographer Bernard Livingston presented a movie, still in the works, during the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's annual meeting. When completed, after editing and sound-track narration, the color film about horse activities throughout the state would be available for any interested groups – in and outside of Maryland. It showed lively scenes of raising, training, schooling and racing Thoroughbreds and hunters, as well as farming with heavy-horse teams, the use of ponies for pleasure and showing, trotters, saddle-horses, and other breeds. It was planned to be "a good and enjoyable bit of propaganda."

10 years ago

■ Maryland-bred Tuscalee was voted into the National Racing Hall of Fame. Tuscalee won more American jump races than any horse in history (37). He started at least once a year from 1962 to 1972 for owner-breeder Alfred Smith and trainer Leiter Aitcheson, making 89 starts, and was the Thoroughbred Racing Associations' top steeplechaser of 1966. Among other inductees were Pennsylvanian Michael Moran's three-time Eclipse Award-winning steeplechaser McDynamo, and New Jersey resident Bob Levy's champion sprinter Housebuster.

■ Virginia-bred Colonial Affair, 23, winner of the 1993 Belmont Stakes-G1, died in Argentina where he had stood at stud since 2003. Bred by Hermen Greenberg's Rutledge Farm and a son of Virginia-bred Kentucky Derby-G1 and Preakness-G1 winner Pleasant Colony, Colonial Affair's other Grade 1 wins came the Jockey Club Gold Cup and Whitney Handicap. His classic victory was historic, as jockey Julie Krone became the first woman to win a Triple Crown race.

Colonial Affair remains the last of 23 Mid-Atlantic-bred Belmont Stakes winners.

■ Sent off as the overwhelming 3-10 favorite in the $1.5-million Charles Town Classic-G2, Game On Dude fought for a half-length victory over nemesis Clubhouse Ride. Time of 1:49.93 was just .17 seconds off the track record for 1⅛ miles. He was owned in part by four-time World Series-winning manager Joe Torre, who was in attendance and explained his involvement with racing. "Actually, Don Zimmer, who was my bench coach for eight years with the Yankees, got me really hooked on horse racing. In fact, I kid him all the time, 'I would have retired a long time ago except you got me interested in this sport' . . ."

■ Jacqueline Ohrstrom's Professor Maxwell won the Maryland Hunt Cup at age 14, even after jockey Mark Beecher lost his stirrups at the ninth fence. Beecher credited his recovery to his childhood in Ireland, including riding without a saddle.

■ Joe Clancy told the unlikely story of Virginia-bred In too Deep, purchased as a weanling for a dollar by Susan Cooney in 1999 and retired as a stakes-placed winner of six races and $122,141. In too Deep's first foal was the Cooney bred/owned/trained multiple stakes winner Embarr.

50 years ago

■ Pimlico posted new attendance and wagering records for the 98th Preakness as 61,657 people witnessed Secretariat's greatness, exceeding the previous year's record by 12,936. The day's mutuel handle of $3,792,076 was $487,715 higher than the previous mark. Countering the positive was what was described as "that maelstrom of humanity which crowds into the centerfield [15,400 this year] and then defies the restraining efforts of police and uniformed guards."

Maryland Horse editor Snowden Carter weighed in: "Before the 1974 Preakness is run, [general manager Chick] Lang and the Cohens [Pimlico owners Ben and Herman] must do something about that centerfield. Tunnels under the track [such as used at Churchill Downs] are a necessity. And national guardsmen [such as used as Churchill Downs] are needed."

■ The Maryland Racing Commission approved the transfer of the 36-day Marlboro meeting to Bowie. "The apparent demise of Marlboro as a racing center leaves only Timonium as a survivor on the once popular half-mile Maryland circuit. Other minor tracks eliminated during the past dozen years were Bel Air, Hagerstown and Cumberland."

In Carter's editorial, he looked back "on the good old days" with a great deal of sorrow. "All four of those tracks were dear old friends." But continued: "Progress is sometimes quite painful. But looking at the racing picture in an objective manner, I've got to say that the entire industry will benefit . . ."

■ King's Bishop set a 7-furlong track record at Belmont when winning the Carter Handicap by 5 lengths in 1:20⅖ – taking four-fifths of a second off the old record set 16 years earlier by Bold Ruler. The 4-year-old son of Round Table was owned by Allaire duPont, E.P. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. E. Edward Houghton and Richard Stokes.

Stakes winner Northern Jove, purchased from owner-breeder Peter Fuller on Preakness Day at Pimlico by Edgar Lucas' Helmore Farm, made his last start in Fuller colors a winning one by capturing a 6-furlong overnight handicap at Pimlico.

Both stallions had brief but successful careers in Maryland. King's Bishop entered stud the next year at Windfields, where he stood until his death in December 1981, becoming one of the state's leading sires with 29 stakes winners in eight crops as well as a top broodmare sire. Northern Jove stood at Helmore Farm in Woodbine from 1974 through 1978 until moved to Kentucky after his daughter Candy Eclair was named 1978 Eclipse Award-winning 2-year-old filly.

■ Dr. Paul Rothfuss, nearly 80 and a retired general practitioner/surgeon who owned a 204-acre farm in Williamsport, Pa., bred and raced more than 100 horses since getting into the racing business in 1935. Rothfuss, which in German means "red foot," used the word "foot" in the names of about 80 of his horses – but in 1956 The Jockey Club ruled that he was "advertising" his specialty and limited him to one horse with "foot" in the name every year after. One of his most notable homebreds, allowance winner Gain A' Foot, might have been a better racehorse had he not caught a foot in the starting gate as a 3-year-old. Eventually retired to stud at Rothfuss' farm, Gain A' Foot sired 38 foals, of which 36 started and 25 won.

Rothfuss' son David, a 28-year-old biology teacher, turned to training his father's horses over the past year.

25 years ago

■ Leading up to the 1998 Maryland Hunt Cup, the popular gray Florida Law had an unparalleled record of near misses – five starts with no falls, three seconds and a third. He caught Welter Weight in the final yards to win the 4-mile race and give fellow "near-missers" Tom Voss and jockey Joe Gillet their first tastes of Hunt Cup glory.

■ Editor Timothy T. Capps pondered the impact of fewer racing days in the region in a "quality over quantity" question: "Is less horse racing better horse racing?" The thought behind the theory was fewer races would produce larger fields and more competitive wagering. Capps' conclusion was, "Ultimately, the decision as to whether or not less racing is better is likely to be made by politicians and regulators, not the marketplace, and that is perilous."

■ The 7-length victory of Robert E. Meyerhoff's Hot Brush in the John B. Campbell Handicap-G3 marked the third time trainer Richard W. Small had sent out the winner of the race. "When I was growing up, the Campbell Handicap was almost as big as the Preakness," said Small. "You look at the horses who won some of the earlier runnings: Vertex (1959), Kelso (1963), Mongo (1964), In Reality (1968) . . . I get all excited just thinking about horses such as those." Small's previous winners were Festive Mood (1976) and Hot Brush's sire Broad Brush (1987).

■ Writer Bill Mooney profiled jockey Jeffrey Lloyd after his 4,000th win in April. A native of Wisconsin, Lloyd made his career in the region, recording his first win at Waterford Park (now Mountaineer) in September 1975. His milestone came aboard Jaded Light at Philadelphia Park.

Celebrating Hot Brush's John B. Campbell victory are (from left) owners Robert and Jane Meyerhoff, Rick Wilson, MJC president Joe De Francis and trainer Richard Small.

■ Regional cable station Comcast Sportsnet was airing a new weekly show, Philadelphia Park's *Let's Go Racing*, which debuted in March. Co-hosted by Bruce Casella and Dick Jerardi, the show covered national racing as well as local features.

The weekly show still airs, with co-hosts Jerardi and Dani Gibson.

Hunt Cup Style

Fifty years ago, Morning Mac and Buzz Hannum flew the last fence en route to victory in the 1973 Maryland Hunt Cup. Owned and trained by Hannum's mother Nancy, the 11-year-old outran Eastmac (sired by 1949 Hunt Cup runner Cormac like the winner) by 25 lengths. Morning Mac made four starts in the historic race, also winning in 1970, finishing third in 1971 and fourth in 1972.

Walter M. "Skip" Ball was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s. His children donated his work to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association several years ago, and the photographs are part of the Maryland Horse Library as the Skip Ball Collection. In the next stages of our archiving projects, Ball's films and slides will be digitized to preserve this gifted photographer's legacy.

TO OUR BREEDERS,

We Wish You the Best of Luck and Thank You

We wish to thank all the breeders sending their mares to our stallions during the 2023 breeding season. Your confidence in our stallion roster encourages us to continue to offer an option for every breeder. We value you as a customer and consider ourselves fortunate for being chosen by you. Wishing you much success and best of luck in all your endeavors. The future of racing in Maryland has a bright and promising future.

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2023 COLONIAL DOWNS STAKES SCHEDULE

Stakes Closing Saturday, July 1

7/15/23 **The Edward P. Evans** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile (Turf)

7/15/23 **The Punch Line** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

7/15/23 **The Tyson Gilpin** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
Fillies and Mares 3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

7/15/23 **The Brookmeade** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
Fillies and Mares 3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile And One-Sixteenth(Turf)

Stakes Closing Friday, July 7

7/22/23 **The Van Clief** - $150,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

7/22/23 **The Andy Guest** - $150,000
Fillies and Mares 3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

Stakes Closing Friday, July 14

7/29/23 **The Housebuster Overnight Handicap** - $100,000
3 Year Olds, Seven Furlongs

Stakes Closing Friday, July 21

8/5/23 **The Hickory Tree** VA Restricted - $150,000
2 Year Olds, Five Furlongs

8/5/23 **The Keswick** VA Restricted - $150,000
Fillies 2 Year Olds, Five Furlongs

8/12/23 **The Secretariat** - Grade II - $500,000
3 Year Olds, One Mile (Turf)

8/12/23 **The Beverly D.** - Grade I - $500,000
Fillies and Mares, 3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile And Three Sixteenths (Turf)

8/12/23 **The Arlington Million** - Grade I - $1,000,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile And One Quarter (Turf)

Stakes Closing Friday, July 28

8/11/23 **The Randolph D. Rouse Steeplechase**
Filly/Mare Hurdle Stakes - $75,000
Fillies and Mares, 4 Year Olds and Upward, Two Miles And One Quarter

Stakes Closing Friday, August 18

9/2/23 **The Meadow Stable** VA Restricted - $150,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund)
3 Year Olds and Upward Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

9/2/23 **The Camptown** VA Restricted - $150,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund)
Fillies and Mares, 3 Year Olds and Upward Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

9/2/23 **The Bert Allen** VA Restricted - $150,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund). 3 Year Olds and Upward One Mile And One-Sixteenth (Turf)

9/2/23 **The Nellie Mae Cox** VA Restricted - $150,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund)
Fillies and Mares, 3 Year Olds and Upward One Mile And One-Sixteenth (Turf)

9/2/23 **The Jamestown** VA Bred/Sired - $125,000
(Includes $50,000 from VA Bred Fund)
2 Year Olds, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

Stakes Closing Friday, August 25

9/8/23 **The Life's Illusion Steeplechase** - $75,000
Fillies and Mares 3 Year Olds and Upward, Two Miles (Hurdle)

9/9/23 **The Colonial Cup** - $150,000.
3 Year Olds and Upward, One Mile And One Half (Turf)

9/9/23 **The Exacta Systems Rosie's** - $125,000
2 Year Olds, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

9/9/23 **The Da Hoss** - $150,000
3 Year Olds and Upward, Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

9/9/23 **The Kitten's Joy** - $125,000
2 Year Olds, One Mile And One-Sixteenth (Turf)

9/9/23 **The New Kent County Virginia Derby** - Grade III - $500,000
3 Year Olds, One Mile And One Eighth (Turf)

9/9/23 **The Virginia Oaks** - Listed - $250,000
Fillies 3 Year Olds, One Mile And One Eighth (Turf)

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